

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

Blue [redacted] g

Story and Art by Shoko Hidaka

volume 1

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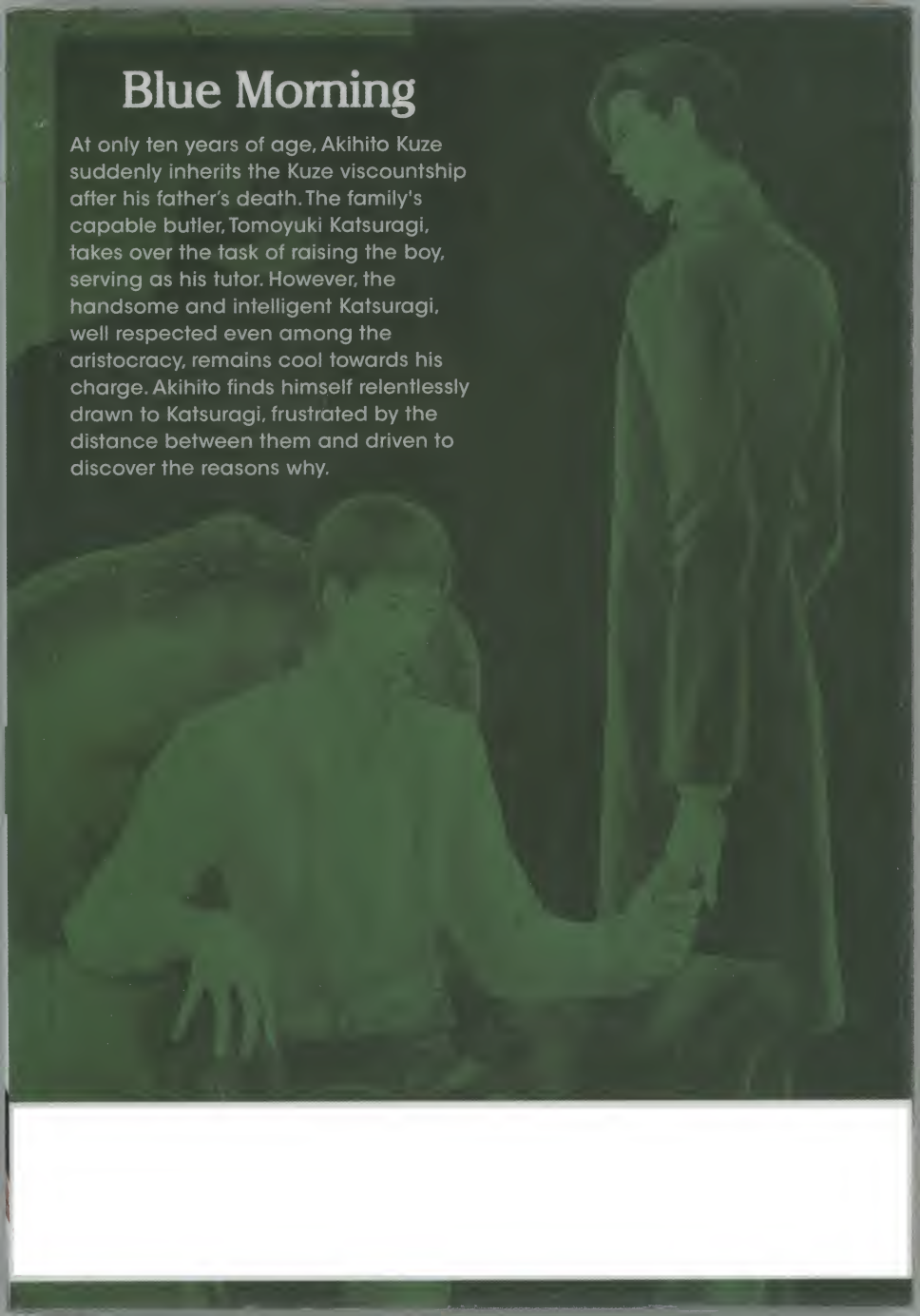
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volume 1

Blue Morning

At only ten years of age, Akihito Kuze suddenly inherits the Kuze viscountship after his father's death. The family's capable butler, Tomoyuki Katsuragi, takes over the task of raising the boy, serving as his tutor. However, the handsome and intelligent Katsuragi, well respected even among the aristocracy, remains cool towards his charge. Akihito finds himself relentlessly drawn to Katsuragi, frustrated by the distance between them and driven to discover the reasons why.



Blue Morning

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Blue Morning

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Blue Morning: Scene 1

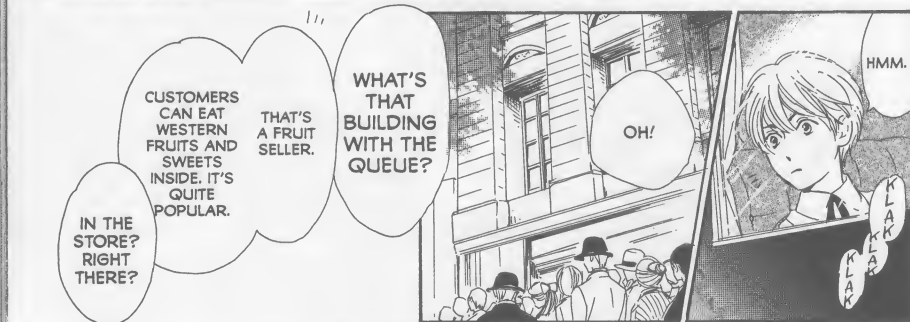




AND RECENTLY A NEW DEPARTMENT STORE HAS OPENED. EVERY TIME I VISIT, THE TOWN SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED.

INDEED, SIR.

QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE COME AND GO BETWEEN SHIMBASHI STATION AND GINZA.



HMM.

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

OH!

WHAT'S THAT BUILDING WITH THE QUEUE?

THAT'S A FRUIT SELLER.

CUSTOMERS CAN EAT WESTERN FRUITS AND SWEETS INSIDE. IT'S QUITE POPULAR.

IN THE STORE? RIGHT THERE?



IS HE MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU, TAMURA? WHAT'S HE LIKE?

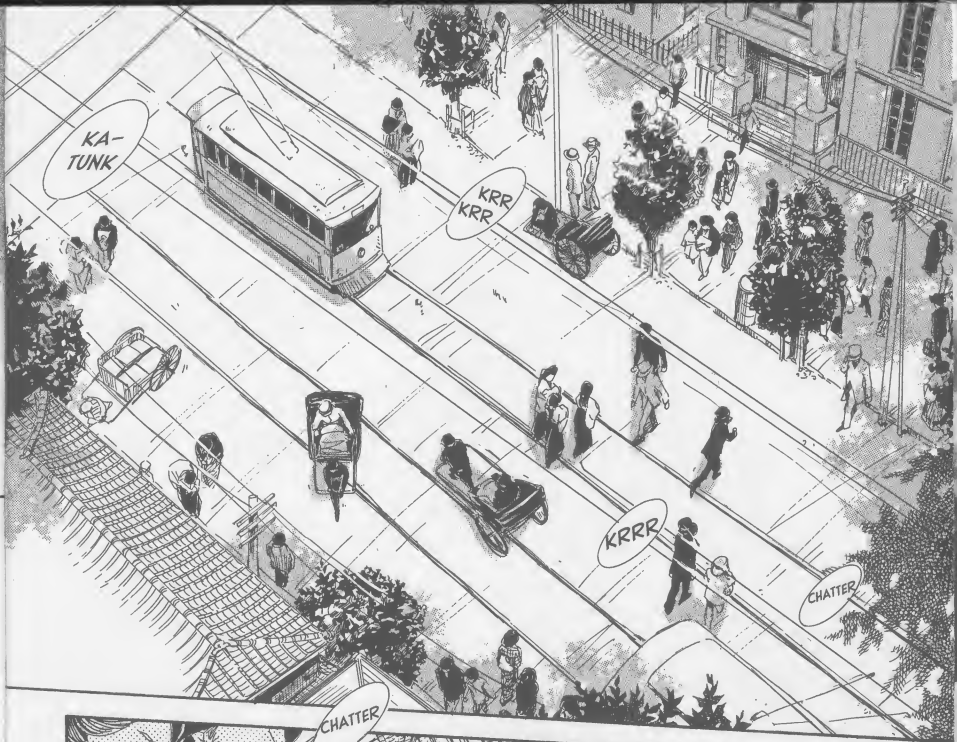
KATSU-RAGI ...

WHO'S KATSU-RAGI?

I WANT AN APPLE! LET'S GO!

MASTER KATSURAGI INSTRUCTED ME TO BRING YOU STRAIGHT TO THE MANOR AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL AT THE STATION.

I'M AFRAID WE CANNOT.



CHATTER

CHATTER



SO MANY PEOPLE.

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

OH, WE'VE
FINALLY
ARRIVED.

NO,
THAT'S
...

AND THEN
THERE WAS
ONLY ME.

SIX MONTHS
LATER, MY
FATHER
FOLLOWED
HER QUITE
SUDDENLY.

DOES
THAT MEAN
I SHOULD
THINK OF
KATSURAGI
AS A
FATHER?

I HAD JUST
TURNED TEN.
I DIDN'T
KNOW
ANYTHING.

ALL I COULD
DO WAS OBEY
MY FATHER'S
LAST WORDS.

THE MANOR
IS MUCH LARGER
THAN THE HOUSE
YOU'RE USED
TO LIVING IN
IN KAMAKURA.

THIS
IS IT.

MY FA-
THER
TOLD
ME.
BEFORE
THE MEIJI
RESTOR-
ATION THEY
WERE THE
KUZES'
CHIEF
RETAINERS.

THEY ARE
INDEED,
SIR. HOW
DID YOU
KNOW?

THEY WERE,
WHICH IS WHY
IN HIS VERY
BLOOD MASTER
KATSURAGI
DIFFERS FROM
A MERE
BUTLER SUCH
AS MYSELF.

HMM. ...

MASTER
KATSURAGI IS
ENTRUSTED
WITH THE
SUPERVISION
OF THE ENTIRE
KUZE HOUSE-
HOLD.

THE LATE
VISCOUNT
HAD
UTMOST
FAITH IN
HIM...

THE
KATSU-
RAGI
ARE A
BRANCH
OF THE
KUZE
FAMILY,
RIGHT?

MY
FATHER SAID
TO TRUST
KATSURAGI
WITH EVERY-
THING.

WHAT
IS IT,
SIR?

AFTER SHE
MARRIED MY
FATHER, SHE
SPENT MOST OF
HER DAYS AT
KAMAKURA UNTIL
SHE PASSED
AWAY.

MY
MOTHER
WAS
SICKLY.

HE
SAID
NOT TO
THINK
ABOUT
ANY-
THING...
...AND TO
JUST DO AS
KATSURAGI
ASKS OF
ME.



I AM
THE BUTLER
WHO WILL BE
IN CHARGE
OF YOUR
EDUCATION,
MASTER
AKIHITO.



MY NAME IS
KATSURAGI.



THE
PRINCIPAL
RESIDENCE
OF THE
VISCOUNT
KUZE.



WEL-
COME
HOME,
SIR.

WEL-
COME
HOME,
SIR.



WEL-
COME
HOME
...
MASTER
AKIHITO.
...





WELCOME HOME, SIR.

THIS IS THE MASTER BEDROOM AND THE ADJOINING SITTING ROOM.

IF YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO THE LEFT, YOU WILL FIND THE WASHROOM AND THEN THE BATHROOM.



KA-CHAK

I PERSONALLY PREPARED YOUR ROOMS FOR YOU.

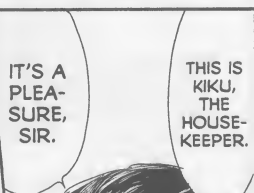


IF YOU FIND ANYTHING LACKING, LET TAMURA KNOW.

THERE IS ALSO A STUDY.



KIKU HAS BEEN SERVING THE KUZE FAMILY SINCE YOUR GRANDFATHER'S TIME. SHE IS VASTLY MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE THAN I ABOUT A VARIETY OF MATTERS. YOU MAY ASK HER ANYTHING.



IT'S A PLEASURE, SIR.

THIS IS KIKU, THE HOUSE-KEEPER.



MASTER AKIHITO.

YES... UM... I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR-



FWP

FWP

MASTER AKIHITO, I'M SURE YOU MUST BE QUITE TIRED.

YOU WILL HAVE A GREAT MANY VISITORS STARTING QUITE EARLY TOMORROW MORNING.



THERE AREN'T MANY NOBLES ...

...TITLED LOWER THAN A COUNT WITH DWELLINGS AS MAGNIFICENT AS THIS ONE.



OH.

NOTHING.



...WHAT IS IT, SIR?

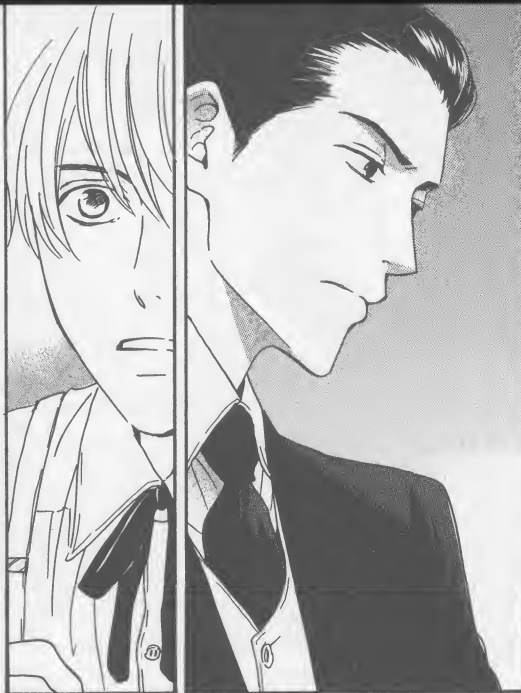


ALTHOUGH YOUR DEBUT WON'T TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER YOU TAKE YOUR POSITION AS VISCOUNT...

...DO PLEASE CONSIDER HAVING A SIMPLE DINNER PARTY BEFORE THEN.

GOOD
NIGHT,
SIR.

KA-CHAK



YOU
GIRLS
MAY
GO AS
WELL.

YES,
MA'AM.

WHAT
IS IT,
SIR?

UM...
KIKU?

ALL OF
THIS
IS FOR
YOU,
AFTER
ALL.



THERE IS
NO NEED
FOR YOU
TO BOW
TO ANY
OF YOUR
SERVANTS.

I DO
NOT KNOW
WHAT THE
SITUATION
WAS IN
KAMAKURA,
BUT PLEASE
REFRAIN
FROM SUCH
BEHAVIOR
FROM NOW
ON.

YOU MUST
HOLD YOUR
HEAD HIGH
AS MASTER
OF THIS
HOUSEHOLD.



YES,
SIR?

NOW
THEN,
I WILL
TAKE
MY LEAVE.

OH!
UM...

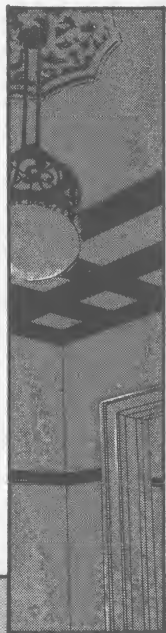
KATSU-
RAGI?

UH...
JUST...
THANKS
FOR
EVERY-
THING.



FOR
ME...

I
UNDER-
STAND.



IS THAT
SUCH A GOOD
IDEA? I PRAY
YOU DO NOT
TROUBLE HIM
WITH
TRIVIALITIES.

AS HEAD OF
THE HOUSE,
MASTER
KATSURAGI
IS DIFFICULT
FOR ANYONE
TO UNDER-
STAND.

AND
THERE WERE
SO MANY
PEOPLE
IN THE
TOWN.

THE
CEILING'S
SO
HIGH...



... PLIP

THIS PLACE IS
SO BIG AND
QUIET, IT FEELS
LIKE THERE'S NO
ONE HERE.

AKIHITO.



MASTER
KATSU-
RAGI?

HE
IS A
WONDER-
FUL
MAN.

IT IS THANKS
TO HIM THAT
WE WERE ABLE
TO WELCOME
YOU TO THE
KUZE HOME
WITHOUT ANY
PROBLEMS
AFTER THE
VISCOUNT
PASSED ON.



WHAT'S
KATSURAGI
LIKE?

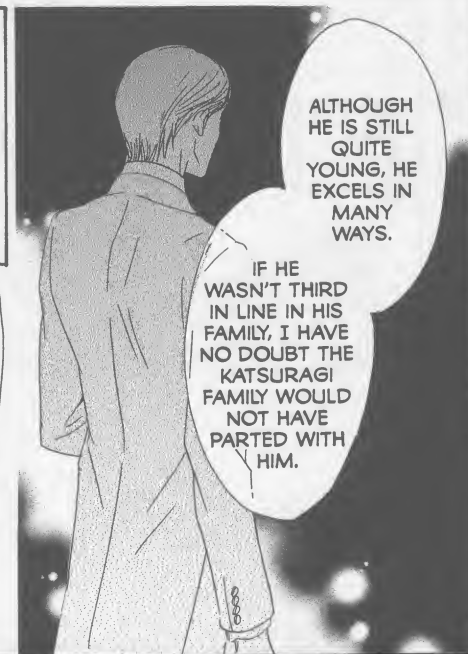
...
KIKU.



BEFORE
HE PASSED
AWAY, MY
FATHER TOLD
ME TO LEAVE
EVERYTHING
TO KATSU-
RAGI.

SO I
THOUGHT
MAYBE IF I
COULD TALK
WITH HIM MORE-

SIR.



ALTHOUGH
HE IS STILL
QUITE
YOUNG, HE
EXCELS IN
MANY
WAYS.

IF HE
WASN'T THIRD
IN LINE IN HIS
FAMILY, I HAVE
NO DOUBT THE
KATSURAGI
FAMILY WOULD
NOT HAVE
PARTED WITH
HIM.



HE KNOWS
EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE YET
TO LEARN.

LISTEN TO
KATSURAGI.

THERE
ARE TOO
MANY
THINGS
I DON'T
KNOW.

I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT
IT IS I DON'T
KNOW.

IN THE END,
NEITHER
FATHER NOR
MOTHER
TAUGHT ME
ANYTHING.

KATSURAGI...

HE'S
THE ONLY
PERSON I
CAN COUNT
ON NOW.

KATSU-
RAGI...

HE'S
TALL...

HE LOOKS
GOOD IN
WESTERN
CLOTHES...



BUT I AM
HERE, ALONG WITH
THE LADIES AND
YOUR TEACHERS,
SO YOU MUSTN'T
FEEL LONELY.

YOUR FATHER
SO RARELY COMES
HERE TO KAMAKURA
BECAUSE HE IS
EXTREMELY BUSY
TENDING TO
AFFAIRS OF
STATE.



I CAN NO
LONGER
TEACH YOU
ANYTHING,
BUT...

...YOU
STILL HAVE
KATSURAGI.



I ALLOWED
YOU TO
STAY HERE AT
KAMAKURA
BECAUSE
SUMIKO WAS
LONELY IN
HER ILLNESS,
BUT...

...I
SHOULD'VE
BROUGHT
YOU BACK
TO TOKYO
SOONER.

AKIHITO...



I
APOLOGIZE
FOR THE
LATENESS
OF HIS
INTRODU-
TION.

MAY I
PRESENT
TO YOU THE
HEIR TO THE
KUZE VIS-
COUNTSHIP,
MASTER
AKIHITO
KUZE.

ALTHOUGH
IT DEPENDS
ON THE
PREPARATIONS
BEING MADE, WE
EXPECT THAT HIS
SUCCESSION TO
THE PEERAGE
WILL TAKE PLACE
WITHIN THE
NEXT SIX
MONTHS.



MASTER
AKIHITO.

OVER
HERE.



THAT'S WHAT
BUTLERS ARE
FOR. AS LONG
AS KATSURAGI'S
AROUND THERE
SHOULDN'T
BE ANY
PROBLEMS.

MY, HE
REALLY IS
A YOUNG
VIS-
COUNT.

MA'AM...
UM... I
TURNED
TEN THIS
YEAR.



GOOD-
NESS! AN
ADORABLE
VISCOUNT
IS BORN.

HOW
OLD ARE
YOU,
MASTER
AKIHITO?



IT'S NOT
AS IF THE
HOUSE IS
OF SUCH
STANDING AS
TO RECEIVE
SPECIAL
CONSIDER-
ATION.

HE'S
EVEN BEEN
RECOGNIZED
BY THE
IMPERIAL
HOUSEHOLD! A TEN-
YEAR-OLD
VISCOUNT?
HONESTLY
...

I JUST
KNOW
THAT
BUTLER
KATSURAGI
IS PULLING
ALL THE
STRINGS.

SHH!
HE'LL
HEAR
YOU!



HERE'S
THE STAR
OF THE
SHOW
NOW.



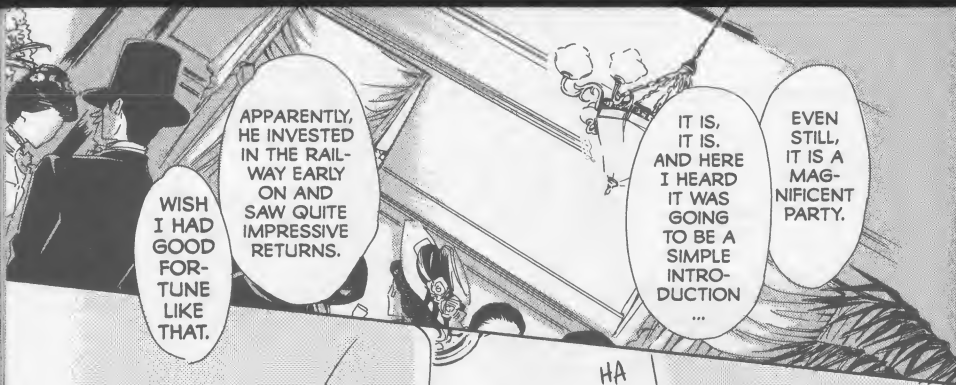
DID
YOU HEAR?
THE NEW
VISCOUNT
HAS ONLY
JUST
TURNED
TEN.

DIDN'T THE
VISCOUNT
HAVE A
YOUNGER
BROTHER?
HE WOULD
BE A SUIT-
ABLE AGE.
OR HE
COULD'VE
ADOPTED
AN HEIR.

VISCOUNT
AKINAO
WAS FIX-
ATED ON
HIS REAL
SON, I
SUPPOSE.

AND HIS
YOUNGER
BROTHER
IS ILL...





WISH I HAD GOOD FORTUNE LIKE THAT.

APPARENTLY, HE INVESTED IN THE RAILWAY EARLY ON AND SAW QUITE IMPRESSIVE RETURNS.

IT IS, IT IS. AND HERE I HEARD IT WAS GOING TO BE A SIMPLE INTRODUCTION ...

EVEN STILL, IT IS A MAGNIFICENT PARTY.

HA
HA
HA

THE FAMILY HEAD MAY CHANGE, BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, KATSURAGI, THE KUZE FAMILY IS SECURE.

REALLY, YOU'RE QUITE SOMETHING, YOUNG AS YOU ARE.

HA
HA
HA
THE KATSURAGI FAMILY SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET A SON LIKE YOU GET AWAY.

SUCH A HUGE CROWD ...
AND EVERYONE WANTS TO TALK TO KATSURAGI ...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! DINNER IS NOW READY, SO IF YOU WOULD PROCEED TO THE GARDEN...



AH!

TUG

KATSURAGI!

I... I DON'T REALLY KNOW WESTERN TABLE MANNERS...

WHAT IS IT? YOU SHOULD ALSO HURRY TO THE GARDEN, SIR...



MASTER AKIHITO.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE AS LONG AS KATSURAGI'S HIS GUARDIAN.

THAT'S TRUE.

AND OVER THERE, THE COUNT KARASUMA AND HIS WIFE, THE LADY TAKAKO.

AND THIS IS THE ELDEST SON OF MARQUESS SAIONJI, MASTER SHIGEYUKI.

THIS IS THE MARQUISE MORIYAMA.

A PLEASURE.

AND HERE...



KATSURAGI ...
WHERE ARE YOU...

SIGH

CHATTER

CHATTER
CHATTER

THEY ARE ALL CLOSE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE KUZE FAMILY.

ENSURE THAT YOU DO NOT OFFEND THEM.

KATSURAGI!
HAVE A SEAT
HERE AND
TALK TO ME
ABOUT BANK
INVEST-
MENTS.

THE KUZE
HEAD CHEF
APPARENTLY
JUST RETURNED
FROM ABROAD.
THIS SHOULD BE
WONDERFUL.

PLEASE
DON'T BE
CONCERNED.
ENJOY
YOUR
MEAL.

MASTER
AKIHITO
WILL MAKE
HIS DEBUT
ANOTHER
DAY.

HE'S FINE,
MADAM.
WE'LL HAVE
OUR PHYSI-
CIAN LOOK
AT HIM
RIGHT
AWAY.

OH
MY!

WHY ARE
SO MANY
PEOPLE
GATHERED
AROUND
KATSURAGI?

OH... THAT
IS THE FRUIT
OF MASTER
KATSURAGI'S
OWN
EFFORTS.

TA-
MURA?

WHAT
IS IT,
SIR?

KATSURAGI
LOOKS
SCARY,
BUT HE'S
ACTUALLY
NICE, I
GUESS.

...
KATSU-
RAGI?

SO
YOUR
STOM-
ACH IS
HURTING,
IS IT?

AT
KAMAKURA
I ONLY
EVER ATE
WITH CHOP-
STICKS...

MOTHER
SAID
IT WAS
FINE.

...IT'S
TRUE.
...
YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS?

TAKE
THE
YOUNG
MASTER
TO HIS
ROOM.

YES?

YES,
SIR.

GOOD-
NESS
...

IS
HE ALL
RIGHT?

OH!
...AH!
UH-
HUH.

IT
HURTS.

MY
STOMACH
REALLY
HURTS!

IT
CAN'T
BE
HELPED
THEN,
CAN IT.

TA-
MURA!

WHAT?

YOU'RE
NOT FEELING
WELL THEN,
MASTER
AKIHITO?

OH MY...
I WONDER
WHAT'S
WRONG.



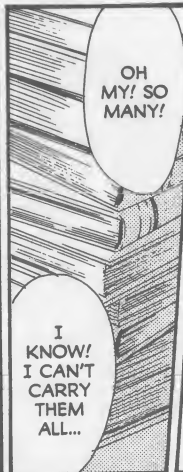
HE'S
SMILING.



SO THE
MASTER
IS GOING
TO READ
ALL OF
THESE?

FIRST,
MASTER
KATSURAGI
WILL TAKE
A LOOK AT
THEM. ONLY
THE ONES
HE NEEDS
WILL BE PUT
INTO THE
LIBRARY.

MASTER
KATSU-
RAGI'S
THE ONE
WHO'LL BE
READING
THEM
ALL.



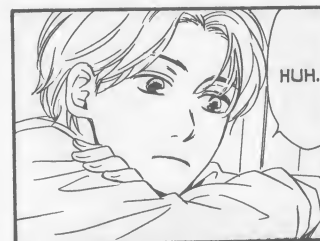
OH
MY! SO
MANY!

I
KNOW!
I CAN'T
CARRY
THEM
ALL...



HEY!

THE
BOOKS
JUST
ARRIVED.
CAN YOU
GIVE ME A
HAND?



HUH.



YES,
SIR. OUR
GUESTS TODAY
COME FROM
FAMILIES
MUCH MORE
ESTEEMED
THAN THE
KUZES.



IF HE WERE
NOT HERE,
THESE PEOPLE
WOULDN'T
SO MUCH
AS THINK OF
COMING TO A
VISCOUNT'S
TO PAY THEIR
RESPECTS.

REALLY
?

CHATTER

CHATTER



OH!



DO YOU UNDER-
STAND?

LISTEN
TO ME.

THESE
THINGS I'M
TEACHING
YOU NOW
WILL BE
NECESSARY
FOR YOU
LATER,
MASTER
AKIHITO.

THIS
TIRESOME CLASS
SYSTEM WILL
BE OBSOLETE BY
THE TIME YOU
ATTEND THE IMPERIAL
UNIVERSITY. THE ERA
WE'RE MOVING INTO
IS ONE IN WHICH
FINANCIAL POWER
IS THE REAL
POWER.



YES.



...

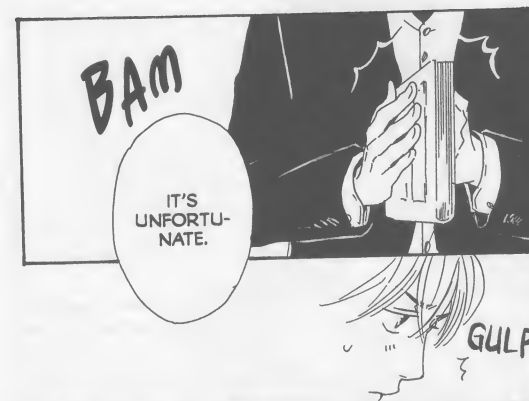


I'D LIKE
FOR YOU
TO GO
OVER ALL
OF THESE
TONIGHT.



EVEN IF
YOU DON'T
UNDER-
STAND NOW,
YOU WILL
AT SOME
POINT.

IN ANY
CASE...



IT'S
UNFORTU-
NATE.

GULP



IT APPEARS
NO MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES WE
GO OVER THIS
PART, YOU JUST
CAN'T SEEM TO
GET IT.

UH...



IN ADDITION
TO THE THINGS
YOU WOULD
LEARN FROM
SCHOOL OR A
PRIVATE TUTOR,
I'M HERE TO
TEACH YOU...

...EVERY-
THING
ABOUT
BUSINESS
IN OUR
ERA.

GLANCE

B
A
N
G

MASTER
AKIHITO.



IS
MASTER
SHIGEYUKI
HERE
AGAIN?



THE
SAIONJIS'
CAR-
RIAGE.



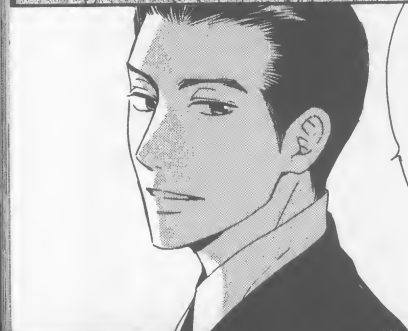
OH.



MASTER
SHIGEYUKI.

I'M SURE
HE'D BE
FINE IF YOU
WERE NO
LONGER IN
THE KUZE
HOUSE,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

HE
SEEMS
SMART
ENOUGH.



ARE WE GOING
TO TALK ABOUT
THIS AGAIN?
YOU SAID
THAT TODAY
YOU WANTED
TO DISCUSS
INVESTING IN
BANKS.



IT'S
ALREADY
BEEN SIX
MONTHS...

...SINCE
THE LITTLE
VISCOUNT
CAME.

IT
HAS.



KATSU-
RAGI...



IMPOSSIBLE.

I'LL
HAVE
TAMURA
BRING
YOUR
DINNER
LATER.



...
ALWAYS
STANDS
SO
TALL.



KLATTER

WHAT
WAS
THAT
ABOUT
?

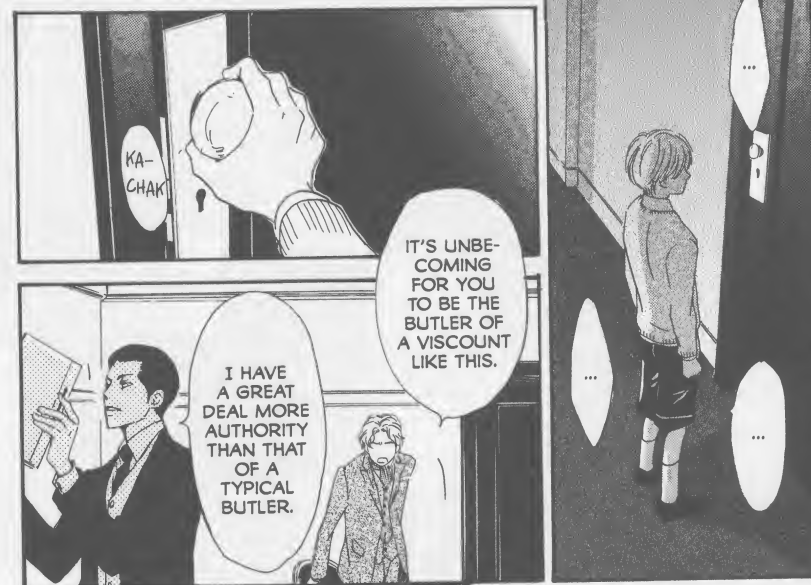


MASTER
AKIHITO.

OH!
UM,
YES.

YOU'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT ON
YOUR
OWN,
WON'T
YOU?

I'LL BE
TAKING
MY
LEAVE.



PEEK



WELL
THEN,
GOOD-
BYE.

I'LL
GO
HOME
FOR
NOW,
BUT...

...COME
OVER
SOON.
LIKE
AL-
WAYS.

I'D
LOVE
TO.

PAT

BUT
RECENTLY
HE SAYS
THINGS
HAVE BEEN
DIFFICULT.

HE
OFTEN
COMES TO
ME IN
TEARS.

MMM...
HOWEVER
ROTTEN
HE MIGHT
BE, HE'S
THE MAR-
QUESS'S
ELDEST
SON.

HIS TWO
OLDER
SISTERS
HAVE
BEEN
MARRIED
OFF TO
PRINCES.

IN
STATUS
ALONE,
HE'S THE
PERFECT
MAN.

Y-YOU'RE
FRIENDS,
HUH? WITH
SAIONJI...
MASTER
SHIGEYUKI.

...WERE
YOU
EAVES-
DROPPING
?



WHO'S
THERE?



HA!
IT MUST
BE QUITE
DIFFICULT
TAKING ON
A CHILD
WHO
KNOWS
NOTHING.

OH...
I...



DID YOU
FINISH THE
ASSIGNMENT
I GAVE
YOU?

MASTER
AKIHITO.

UH...
UM!





YOU...



GASP!



MASTER AKIHITO!

BUT... I'M STUDYING HARD AT SCHOOL, AND... I JUST WANT TO TALK WITH YOU--



I WISH FOR YOU TO BE PERFECT BECAUSE YOU ARE CARRYING ON THE KUZE LINE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

THIS IGNORANCE YOU HAVE NOW MUST NOT BE EXPOSED TO THE WORLD.



YOU'RE REALLY NOTHING LIKE YOUR FATHER, ARE YOU?

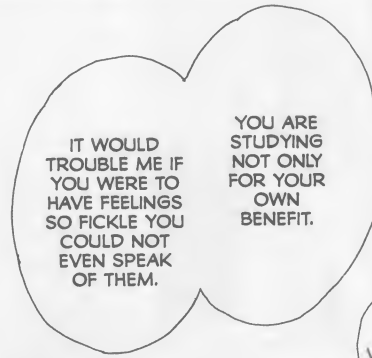


IF HE CONTINUES LIKE THIS, THE FUTURE OF THE SAIONJI FAMILY WON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH.

IN AN AGE WITH MORE AND MORE NOBLES, HOW LONG WILL HE BE ABLE TO CONTINUE HIS SPOILED EXISTENCE AS ONE OF THE PRIVILEGED CLASS?



YOU AS WELL, MASTER AKIHITO.



IT WOULD TROUBLE ME IF YOU WERE TO HAVE FEELINGS SO FICKLE YOU COULD NOT EVEN SPEAK OF THEM.

YOU ARE STUDYING NOT ONLY FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT.



WHAT...?



HMM...

WHY MY FATHER'S
WILL GAVE HIM
AUTHORITY OVER
EVERYTHING IN THE
KUZE HOUSEHOLD...

WHY MY
FATHER TOOK
HIM IN FROM THE
KATSURAGIS...

I KNEW
LITTLE ABOUT
KATSURAGI.

WHY HE
WAS SO
STRICT
WITH ME...

IT'S JUST
UNTIL HE
COMES
OF AGE,
RIGHT?



UH...

WHAT
IS IT?

IF
YOU HAVE
SOMETHING
TO SAY, I'M
LISTENING...
...MY
LORD.

NGH
...



PLEASE
DO NOT
BRING
SHAME
UPON
THE KUZE
FAMILY OR
MYSELF.



TAK
TAK
TAK

I HATE
YOU,
KATSU-
RAGI!



KUZE.

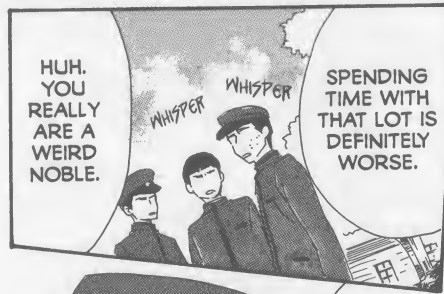
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF GOING WITH YOUR FRIENDS.



HEY, SORRY. THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF. YOU GO ON AHEAD.



ISHI-ZAKI!



HUH. YOU REALLY ARE A WEIRD NOBLE.

WHISPER

WHISPER

SPENDING TIME WITH THAT LOT IS DEFINITELY WORSE.



...YOU'LL GET AN EARFUL, SPENDING TIME WITH AN UPSTART MERCHANT KID.

I MEAN ...

SO, WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT WITH THEM ANYWAY?

WHO CARES?



RIGHT, KUZE?

THAT BUTLER IS USING KUZE ASSETS LIKE HE OWNS THE PLACE. BUT IT'S ONLY UNTIL KUZE GETS HIS JUNIOR FIFTH RANK*.

THE WHOLE TOMOYUKI KATSURAGI THING.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

*Junior Fifth Rank: A lower rank in the pre-WWII imperial court ranking system.

I HATE THAT. PUTTING ON A BIG SHOW, STRUTTING AROUND LIKE HE DOES.

THAT'S ROUGH. BUT, I MEAN, KATSURAGI'S JUST A REGULAR COMMONER, RIGHT?



AH... YEAH.

ALL OF US INHERITING COURT RANKS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COURT TOO.

BY THE WAY, KUZE.

STUFF LIKE ONLY THE OLD FAMILIES BEING ABLE TO VISIT THE PALACE FOR THE COURT FUNCTION LAST MONTH, SO IF YOU'RE FREE-



KUZE!



KATSURAGI.



...I DUNNO. THERE ARE THINGS I HATE ABOUT HIM.

AND A LOT OF THE TIME, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S THINKING.



HE'S BEEN A PRETTY GOOD TEACHER FOR YOU.



WELL ...

WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?

I MEAN, IT'S NOT AS IF YOU HATE HIM OR ANYTHING.

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

YOU MAKE THAT FACE.



BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

...HE'S NOT INTERESTED ...



...IN THINGS LIKE TITLES OR STATUS...

...WHICH IS PRETTY AMAZING. IT'S WORTHY OF RESPECT.



MY BUTLER'S MORE FAMOUS THAN I AM.

SHOWING UP ALL OVER THE PLACE, TALKING ABOUT MAKING MONEY.

HE GIVES THAT MONEY-LOSING LOT INFORMATION ABOUT INVESTING AND LAND SALES. IN RETURN, THEY TREAT HIM LIKE A PRECIOUS TREASURE.



...



SNIKER SNIKER

WHAT?

JUST TRY TALKING TO HIM ONE OF THESE DAYS. YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN.

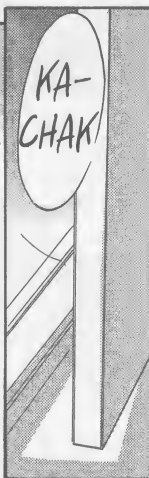
OH, STOP IT.

SO MUCH SO THAT HE REGARDS ANY HUMAN BEING INFERIOR TO HIM AS AN INSECT.

HE IS INCREDIBLE.

INCREDIBLE.

AND HE WAS HEAD OF HIS CLASS AT THIS SCHOOL TOO, RIGHT?

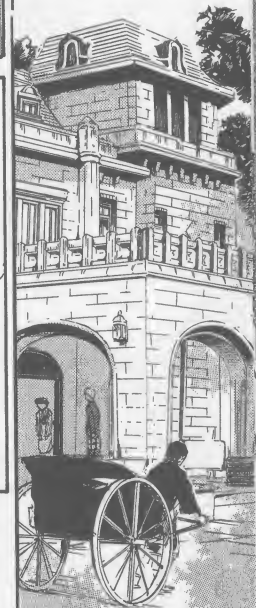


I DON'T KNOW WHO HIS VISITOR IS, BUT HE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS THAT HE IS NOT TO BE DISTURBED.

A VISITOR? FOR KATSURAGI?

IS KATSURAGI GONE FOR THE DAY?

NO, SIR... HE HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR AND IS IN THE DRAWING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

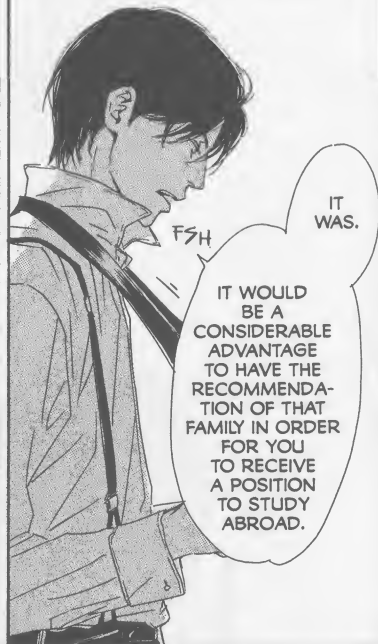




...YOU
OPENED
THE DOOR
ON
PURPOSE.

NOW SHE
MAY BE MORE
INCLINED TO
RECOMMEND YOU
FOR THE BRITISH
UNIVERSITY SPOT
AS A WAY OF
KEEPING YOU
QUIET.

I
DID.



FSH

IT
WAS.

IT WOULD
BE A
CONSIDERABLE
ADVANTAGE
TO HAVE THE
RECOMMENDA-
TION OF THAT
FAMILY IN ORDER
FOR YOU
TO RECEIVE
A POSITION
TO STUDY
ABROAD.



YOU-

!

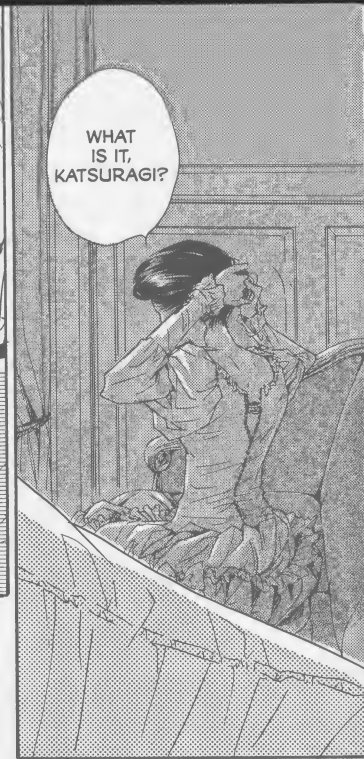
MY
LORD.

WHAT
IS IT YOU
THINK THE
KUZES ARE
LACKING?

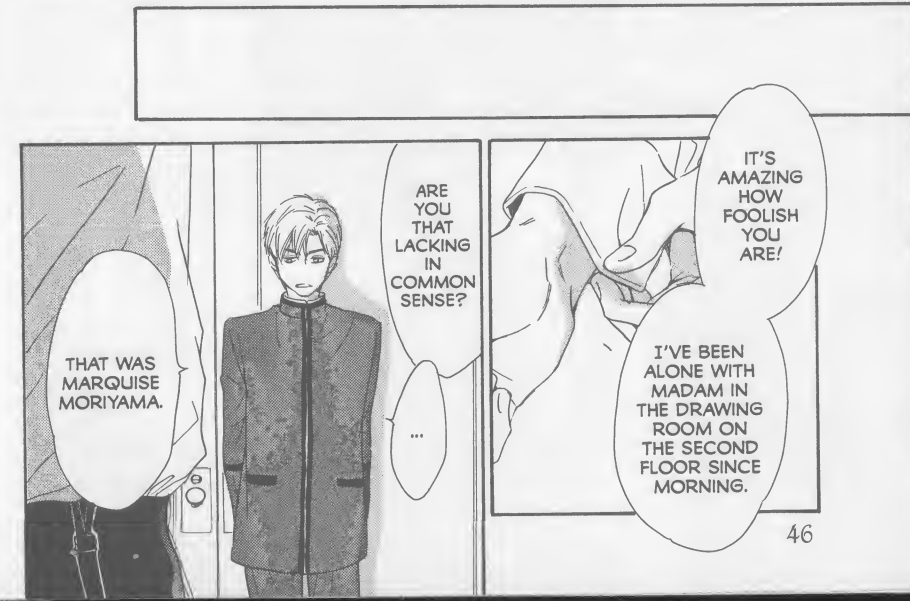


MASTER
AKIHITO KNOWS
HOW TO BE
DISCREET, SO
THERE IS
NOTHING TO
WORRY ABOUT,
MADAM
KAYOKO.

I DO
APOLOGIZE.



WHAT
IS IT,
KATSURAGI?



THAT WAS
MARQUISE
MORIYAMA.

ARE
YOU
THAT
LACKING IN
COMMON
SENSE?

...

IT'S
AMAZING
HOW
FOOLISH
YOU
ARE!

I'VE BEEN
ALONE WITH
MADAM IN
THE DRAWING
ROOM ON
THE SECOND
FLOOR SINCE
MORNING.



DO YOU
THINK IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE?

KATSU-
RAGI.

YOU'RE
NOT ACTUALLY
TRYING TO
GET THE
KUZE FAMILY
PROMOTED,
ARE YOU?!



THAT'S...

OF COURSE
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
OTHER THAN
GETTING
PROMOTED FOR
HONORABLE
SERVICE IN A
WAR, TO ACHIEVE
A HIGHER RANK
IN A SINGLE
GENERATION...



FOR
YOU?

YOU
DOING
ALL THIS
JUST
FOR ME,
IT'S-

AND
STUDYING
ABROAD
TOO.

THAT'S
NOT EVEN
WHAT I
WANT.



GAINING
OR LOSING
IT SIMPLY
DEPENDS
ON WHAT
YOU DO
WITH IT.

MONEY
CAN BE
HAD ONE
WAY OR
ANOTHER.



YOU
AREN'T
...

...
THAT YOU'D
NEED TO BE
PERFECT?

I TOLD
YOU AT THE
BEGINNING,
DIDN'T I?

THAT IS
SOMETHING
YOU CANNOT
GET SIMPLY
BY ACCU-
MULATING
MONEY.



...THEN I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D DO SO ONLY AFTER YOU BECOME A LITTLE LESS IGNORANT.

I KNOW THOSE EYES.



YOU'RE HURT-
ING-

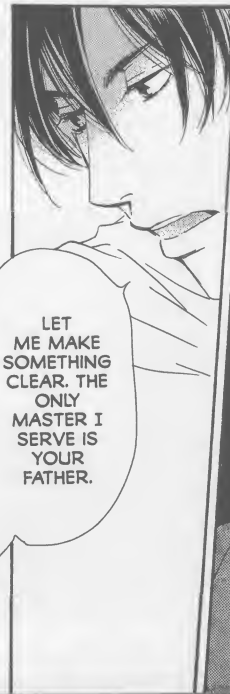
IF YOU WANT TO GIVE ME ORDERS...



HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD NOTHING SO FAR?

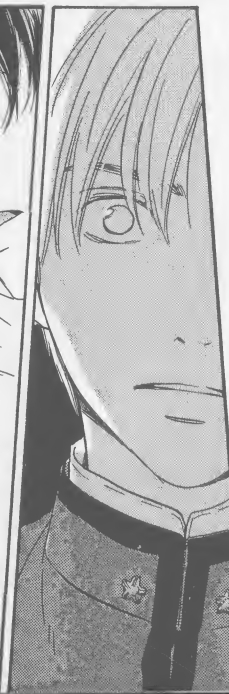


THOSE EYES...



UNTIL YOU COME OF AGE, THE ONLY ONE WITH ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY HERE IS ME.

LET ME MAKE SOMETHING CLEAR. THE ONLY MASTER I SERVE IS YOUR FATHER.



IT'S ALL BEEN FOR THE KUZE FAMILY.

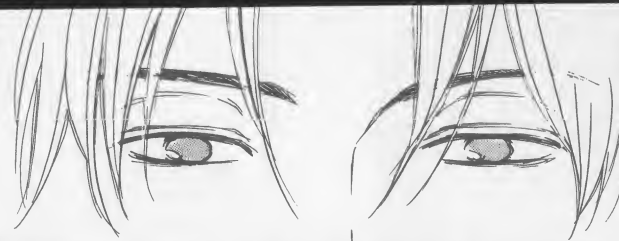
I HAVE NEVER ONCE MADE A MOVE FOR YOUR BENEFIT.

TO INCREASE THE PRESTIGE OF THE KUZE NAME.

THAT NIGHT WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS MANOR...



Blue Morning: Scene 2



THOSE
EYES...



...THE
LOOK IN
HIS EYES...

IT'S
THAT...

IT'S NOT
THAT HE'S
BEING
STRICT
WITH ME.

...IS THAT
OF A
MAN...

...WHO
QUIETLY
HATES ME.

MY
LORD.

PLEASE
DO NOT
DISAPPOINT
ME ANY
FURTHER.

Scene: END



FOR
INSTANCE
...

...MASTER
SHIGEYUKI
SAIONJI,
WHOM YOU
DEPISE.

WHEN
A SAIONJI
ENTERS THE
HOUSE OF
LORDS, HE MAY
SIT IN THE
HIGHEST
POSITION HIS
ENTIRE LIFE.

LIKE YOU,
HE IS ALSO THE
HEIR TO A PEERAGE.
HOWEVER, HE IS THE
SON OF A MARQUESS,
AND THEREFORE THERE
IS A GAP BETWEEN YOU
TWO AS GREAT AS THE
GAP BETWEEN HEAVEN
AND EARTH. YOUR
INVESTITURE, THE SPEED
OF YOUR PROMOTION,
AND YOUR POSITION
IN COURT ARE ALL
DIFFERENT.



TO BE
SELECTED AS
ONE OF THOSE
SEVENTY, YOU
MUST BE IN
SOCIETY AND
ALWAYS KEEP A
WATCHFUL EYE
ON THOSE
AROUND
YOU.

EXACTLY.
IT IS
QUITE A
BOTHR.

YOU
MUST BE
SELECTED AS
ONE OF APPROXI-
MATELY SEVENTY
NOBLES OUT OF
SOME THREE
HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY TITLED
MEN. AND
NATURALLY,
YOU HAVE A
TERM OF
OFFICE.

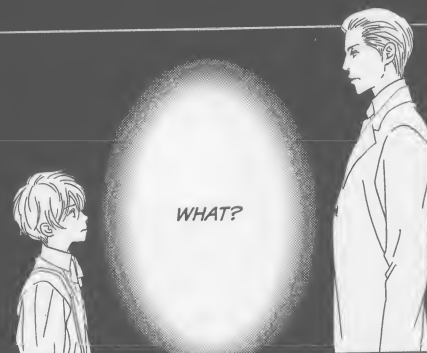
BUT YOU
MUST
FIRST BE
ELECTED.

OR...

IS IT THAT
I DON'T ACT
ENOUGH
LIKE MY
FATHER?

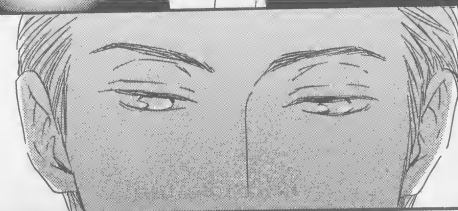
IS IT THAT
I HAVEN'T
TURNED OUT
EXACTLY
AS YOU
ENVISIONED?

DISAPPOINT
YOU? HOW
HAVE I
DISAPPOINTED
YOU?



WHAT?

DON'T
LOOK AT
ME LIKE
THAT.



I'M
JUST...

MASTER
AKIHITO.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
THE DIFFER-
ENCES BETWEEN
A COUNT AND
HIGHER RANKS,
AND A VISCOUNT
AND BARON
RANKS?

KATSURAGI
STILL WON'T
RECOGNIZE
YOU AS HIS
MASTER NOW,
WILL HE?

...
WHAT AN
AWFUL
DREAM.

HE'S
STUDYING
ABROAD?

WITH
BACKING FOR
EVERYTHING
FROM THE
MORIYAMA
FAMILY?

STATUS
AND
RANK
AND THE
REST
OF IT!

YOU- I
THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T
CARE ABOUT
THAT SORT
OF THING!

TO GAIN A
PROMOTION,
YOU MUST
DEVELOP DEEP
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH THOSE
WHO ARE
INFLUENTIAL.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

SO
THEN
SAIONJI
AND
MORIYAMA
ARE...?

HMM, I
WONDER.

...WHICH
IS WHY
KATSURAGI
DOESN'T
TREAT YOU
WITH FOND-
NESS.

YOU'RE
OF A
LOWER
STATUS
THAN I
AM...

I
MEAN.

STATUS
IS IMPOR-
TANT.

IN ANY
CASE
...

TO SAY
NOTHING OF
THE FACT THAT
YOU SHOW
NONE OF THE
EXCELLENCE
OF YOUR
DEAD FATHER.



NOTHING MORE THAN A VISCOUNT'S SERVANT-

MY FATHER SAYS HE'S PRETTY ATTRACTIVE.

HMPH

NO DOUBT HE'S DOING SOME VULGAR THINGS.

SAYS HE'S QUITE POPULAR WITH LADIES AND WITH GENTLEMEN OF THAT PERSUASION.

I HEARD THAT HE'S BEEN COMING AND GOING FROM THE MORIYAMAS FOR A FEW YEARS NOW.

OW!



TAKE IT BACK.

WHA-

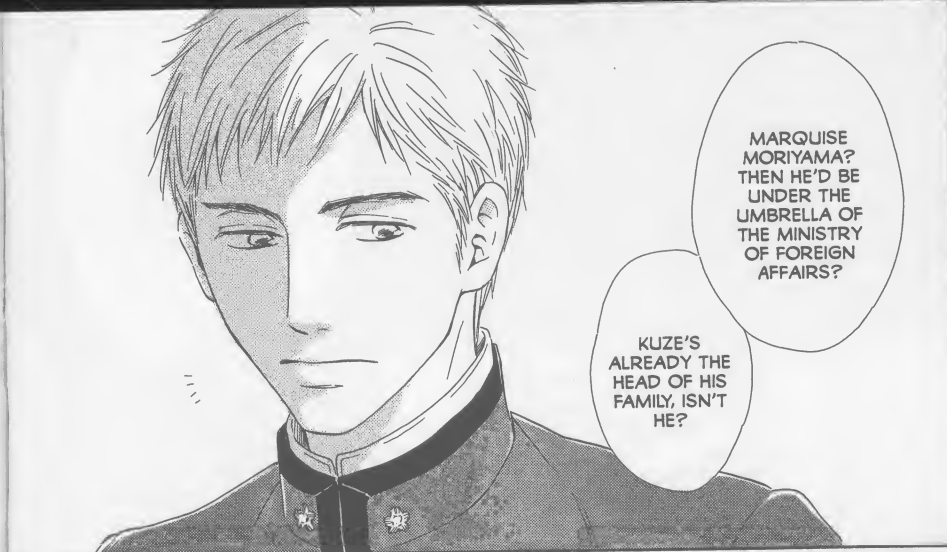


WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

HEY, KUZE!

DON'T INSULT MY BUTLER.

ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE GOSSIPING LIKE GIRLS UNTIL WE'RE IN THE ADVANCED COURSE?



KUZE'S ALREADY THE HEAD OF HIS FAMILY, ISN'T HE?

MARQUISE MORIYAMA? THEN HE'D BE UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS?



WHAT EXACTLY IS SO GREAT ABOUT JUST RELYING ON FAMILY STATUS?

NEGOTIATE WITH YOUR FATHERS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE FILLED WITH PETTY JEALOUSY, YOU COULD AT LEAST GET YOUR OWN GOOD MARKS.

THAT WAS FAST. THE RUMORS ARE ALREADY FLYING.

NICE WORK GETTING PERMISSION FROM ON HIGH LIKE THAT.

SNICKER

IT'S GOT TO BE ABOUT MONEY, RIGHT? AND GETTING CHUMMY WITH THE NOUVEAU RICHE IS A PART OF IT TOO.

SNICKER

SNICKER

KUZE'S BUTLER IS KATSURAGI.



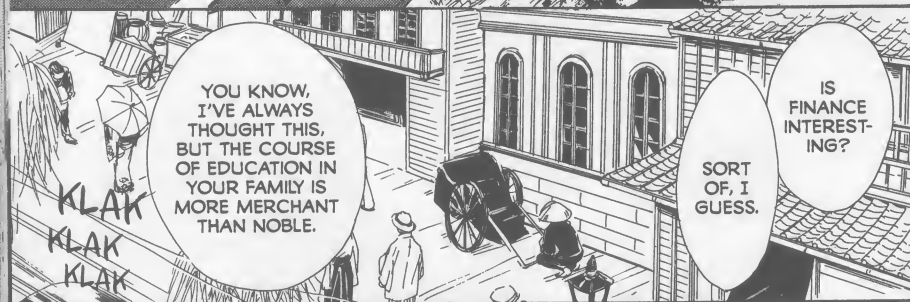
MY TUTOR'S NOT COMING.

HMM ...

YEAH.

TODAY I'M FREE UNTIL EVENING, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES.

WHAT'S THIS? NO RICKSHAW TO PICK YOU UP TODAY?



YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THIS, BUT THE COURSE OF EDUCATION IN YOUR FAMILY IS MORE MERCHANT THAN NOBLE.

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK

IS FINANCE INTERESTING?

SORT OF, I GUESS.



WE'RE NOT VERY HIGH RANKED. I DON'T GO TO COURT OR ANYTHING.

AND IF WE HAD A HIGHER RANK, KATSURAGI PROBABLY COULDN'T DO WHATEVER HE LIKES, AS HE'S INCLINED TO DO.

AND HERE I THOUGHT THE ILLUSTRIOUS NOBLES DID MORE ELEGANT THINGS.



DON'T BOTHER WITH GUYS LIKE THAT.

LET'S GO.

ISHIZAKI.



IT WAS JUST TODAY.

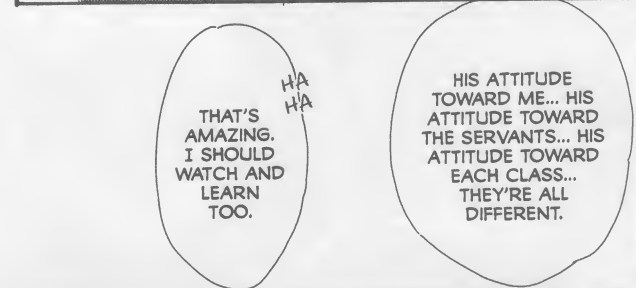
GENERALLY, I DON'T BOTHER WITH THEM. I KEEP TO MYSELF.

ANYWAY, YOU'RE THE ONE ALWAYS TELLING ME NOT TO BOTHER WITH THEM.



HE HAS ME BEAT.

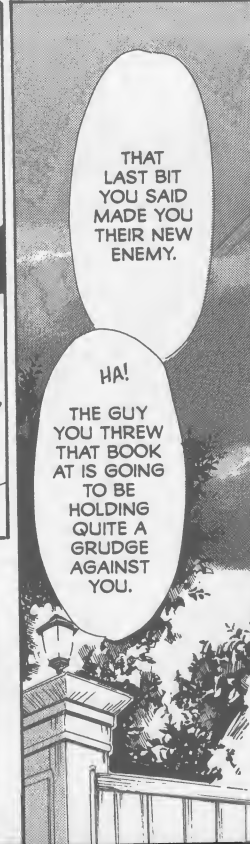
IS THAT PART OF "PLAN KATSURAGI" TOO?



THAT'S AMAZING. I SHOULD WATCH AND LEARN TOO.

HA
HA

HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD ME... HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SERVANTS... HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD EACH CLASS... THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT.



THAT LAST BIT YOU SAID MADE YOU THEIR NEW ENEMY.

HA!

THE GUY YOU THREW THAT BOOK AT IS GOING TO BE HOLDING QUITE A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU.



YOU DIDN'T KNOW? I THOUGHT THE KUZES AND THE KATSURAGIS WENT WAY BACK?

WHEN DID HE GET SICK?

DOES EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT THIS?

IF YOU KNOW THE DETAILS, TELL ME.

HEY...

WHAT?

SOME-THING ABOUT THE FATHER'S ILLNESS GETTING WORSE...



SIGH

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT KATSURAGI.

HE'S NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT HIS REAL FAMILY.

WHEN I BRING IT UP, IT ALWAYS PUTS HIM IN A BAD MOOD.

WHAT?

I'M NOT GOING TO BE IN THE DORM WHEN THE ADVANCED COURSE STARTS?

QUIT GETTING SO WORKED UP WHENEVER WE TALK ABOUT HIM.



LET ME MAKE SOMETHING CLEAR...

NO, BUT THAT LOYALTY OF HIS IS PROOF THAT YOURS IS A GOOD FAMILY.
I MEAN, A MERCHANT'S FAMILY CAN'T RELY ON THE HEAD CLERK.

IT'S NOT ME KATSURAGI'S PLEDGED HIS LOYALTY TO.

IT'S TO THE KUZE VISCOUNTSHIP.

THE ONLY MASTER I SERVE IS YOUR FATHER.



THAT'S GOOD TOO, ISN'T IT? YOU CAN LEAVE ALL THE HOUSE STUFF TO THE SERVANTS...
...AND YOU CAN PUSH AHEAD IN YOUR OWN WAY.

THE OLDEST SON FORMALLY TOOK OVER AS HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, HUH?

OH! RIGHT, I JUST REMEMBERED. SPEAKING OF THE KATSURAGI FAMILY...

TAK

TAK

...



TO GET INTO THE HOUSE OF LORDS, IT'S BETTER TO PLAY EFFECTIVE HANDS NOW—

IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE KUZE FAMILY.

ENOUGH ALREADY, KATSURAGI!!

YOU...



I HEARD YOU CAN DO ANYTHING AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THEIR SUPPORT.

I GUESS IT'S GREAT THAT SHE LIKES YOU. SHE'LL PROBABLY CALL YOU OVER AGAIN, RIGHT?

YES.



THERE'S NO NEED.

BUT IT'S COMPULSORY.

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE PERMISSION OF THE DEAN, WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT. THERE ARE OTHERS DOING THE SAME THING.

BUT IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT AGAIN—

IF YOU'RE NOT LIVING AT THE DORM, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO STUDY THAT MANY MORE THINGS HERE AT THE MANOR.

IN PARTICULAR, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PERFECT YOUR FINANCE STUDIES, AS WELL AS YOUR ENGLISH AND GERMAN...



KEPT MAN, MALE PROSTITUTE, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

AS LONG AS MY HOPES ARE REALIZED.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD JUST SAY IT? ALMOST LIKE A KEPT MAN?



WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS ALMOST LIKE—

ALMOST LIKE?



GLARE

IS THAT SO I CAN STUDY ABROAD UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS?



I KNOW THAT LETTERS COME FROM THE MARQUISE ALMOST EVERY DAY.

THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN COZYING UP TO THE MORIYAMAS, ISN'T IT?



WILL YOU BE TAKING SUPPER, SIR?

HELLO, TAMURA.

WELCOME HOME, SIR.

SORRY I'M LATE.

I ATE WITH ISHIZAKI.

NO, IT'S FINE.



...SAID HE HAD SOME BUSINESS TODAY AND WOULD BE RETURNING LATE.

MASTER KATSURAGI...

FWP

...



IS HE REALLY NOT HERE?

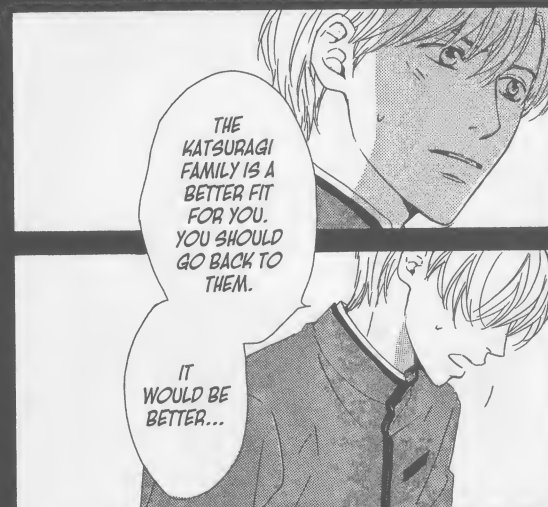
HE GOES OUT A LOT LATELY ...

KA-CHAK



I DIDN'T ASK.

VERY GOOD, SIR.



THE KATSURAGI FAMILY IS A BETTER FIT FOR YOU. YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THEM.

IT WOULD BE BETTER...



I DON'T MATTER TO YOU, ANYWAY.



I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD ON NO ACCOUNT EVER MENTION THE KATSURAGI FAMILY AGAIN.

AS LONG AS YOUR POSITION IS STRENGTHENED.





FOR
YOU?

HAVE YOU
UNDERSTOOD
NOTHING?



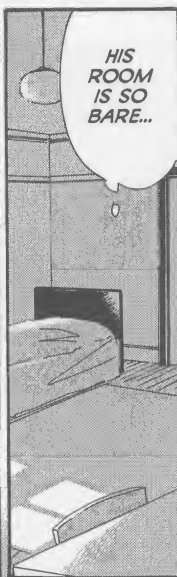
THE ONLY
MASTER I
SERVE IS
YOUR
FATHER.



KATSU-
RAGI...

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
ABOUT
WHEN
YOU'RE IN
HERE?

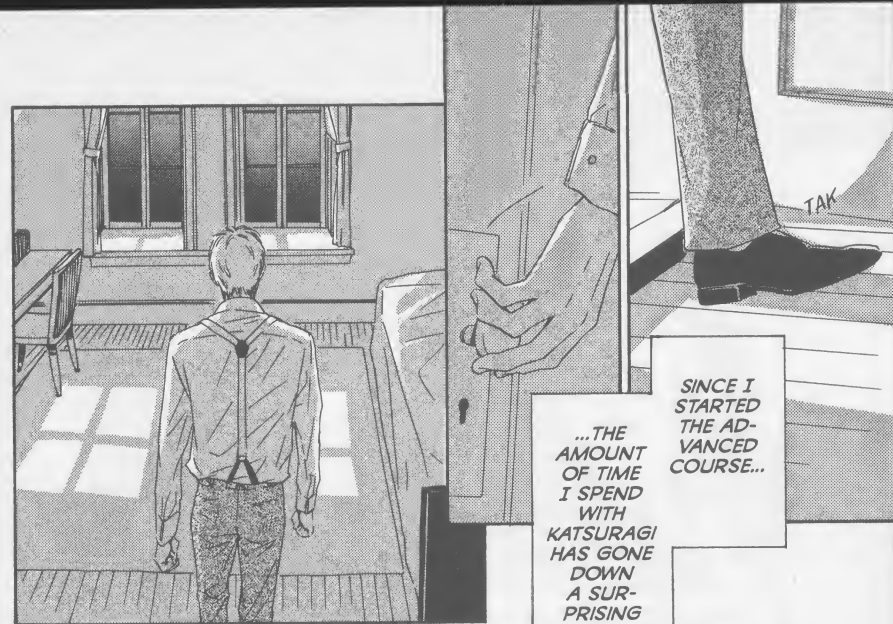
SHF



HIS
ROOM
IS SO
BARE...

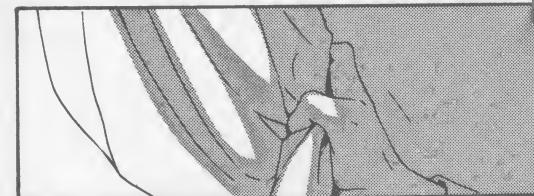


...



TAK

SINCE I
STARTED
THE AD-
VANCED
COURSE...
...THE
AMOUNT
OF TIME
I SPEND
WITH
KATSURAGI
HAS GONE
DOWN A
SUR-
PRISING
AMOUNT.



I
WON'T
SEE
HIM...

...IF I
DON'T
MAKE
THE
EFFORT
TO.

EVEN
THOUGH
HE'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE MY
BUTLER.



WHERE
DID HE
GO?

THE
MORI-
YAMAS?
THE
SAIONJIS?
OR SOME-
WHERE
ELSE...

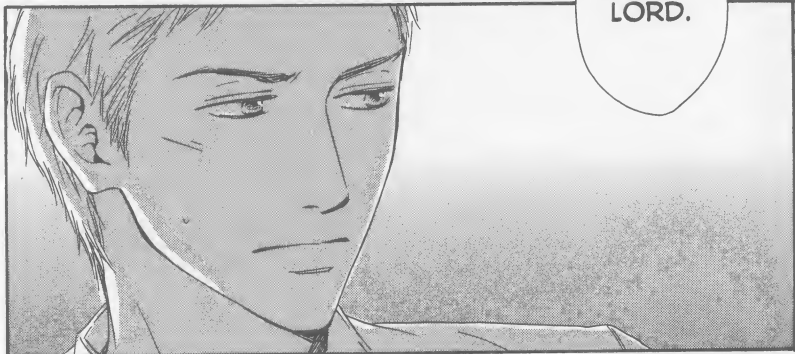


WHAT IS IT?

"MY LORD."

WHEN KATSURAGI GOES OUT OF HIS WAY TO CALL ME THAT...

MY LORD.



SHE

I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT.

...I WILL COME TO YOUR ROOM, SIR.

IF YOU NEED ME FOR SOMETHING...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MY LORD?

HOW CAN WE BE CLOSER?

AND WITHOUT ALL THIS NONSENSE.



TAK

SITTING HERE LIKE THIS...

...IN THE DARK.

TAK

NOTHING.



!

YOU... HAVE
YOU SEEN
MASTER
SHIGEYUKI
RECENTLY?

NO, I
HAVEN'T
HAD ANY
PARTICULAR
BUSINESS AT
THE SAIONJI
MANOR.

NO...
IT'S
NOTHING.

YOU...

I'M JUST
IMPRESSED
MASTER
SHIGEYUKI
AGREED.

WHAT
IS IT,
SIR?

...YOU'RE
REALLY
AWFUL,
YOU KNOW
THAT?

NO ONE
TAKES A
MERE BUTLER
LIKE MYSELF
SERIOUSLY.

YOU
DON'T
PLAY
FAIR.

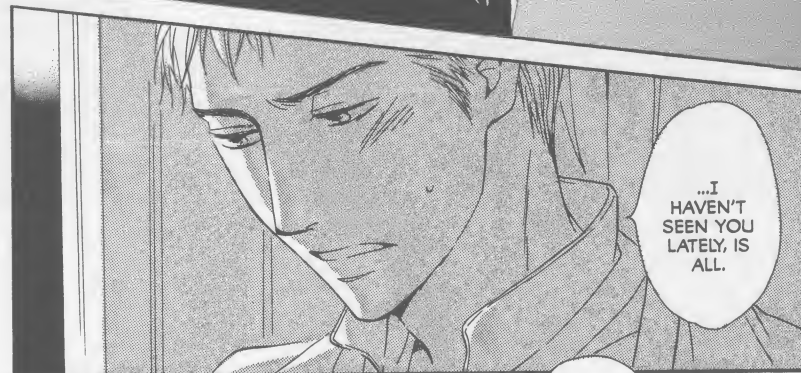
AND
MARQUISE
MORIYAMA?
THE SAME
WILL HAPPEN
TO HER ONCE
MY POSITION
ABROAD IS
SETTLED.

IN
WHAT
WAY?

YOU
CAST POOR
MASTER
SHIGEYUKI
ASIDE.



...



...I
HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
LATELY, IS
ALL.



SHF

YOU DO
KNOW LADY
TAKAKO
OF THE
MORIYAMA
FAMILY,
DON'T
YOU?



I'VE
BEEN HELPING
WITH HER
ENGAGEMENT
TO MASTER
SHIGEYUKI
SAIONJI.

THE
MORI-
YAMAS
AGAIN?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

SHE'LL BE
TURNING
SIXTEEN
THIS
YEAR.

...YES.

SHE'S
THE MAR-
QUIS'S
ELDEST
DAUGHTER,
RIGHT?



THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY FATHER!

AND I HAVE NO DESIRE TO DO SO.

KATSURAGI, I'M TELLING YOU, YOU CAN GO BACK!

I...

MASTER AKIHITO, PLEASE CONTROL YOURSELF.



YOUR PREDECESSOR WAS VERY CLEAR.

KATSURAGI!

MY LORD.

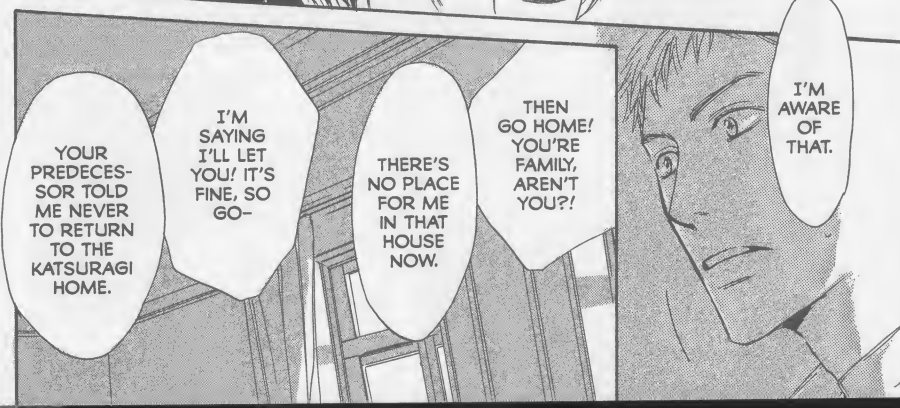


YOU KNOW THAT IF YOUR SECRET MEETINGS BECOME KNOWN, IT WOULD CAUSE THEM TROUBLE AND NOT YOU.

IF YOUR BUSINESS HERE IS FINISHED...



I HEARD FROM ISHIZAKI TODAY. THAT YOUR FATHER'S HEALTH IS DETERIORATING.



YOUR PREDECESSOR TOLD ME NEVER TO RETURN TO THE KATSURAGI HOME.

I'M SAYING I'LL LET YOU! IT'S FINE, SO GO-

THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME IN THAT HOUSE NOW.

THEN GO HOME! YOU'RE FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?!

I'M AWARE OF THAT.



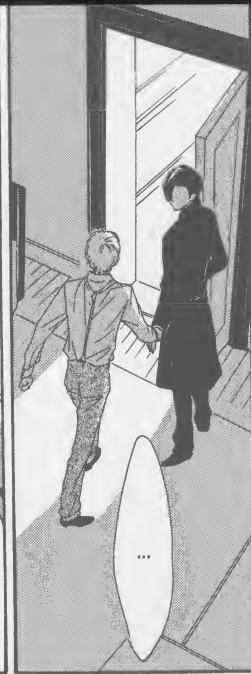
FOOLISH-
NESS...
?!



WHAT
IS THIS
FOOLISH-
NESS?



SSF



...



IF YOU
WOULD LIKE
TO GIVE
ME AN
ORDER...

VIS-
COUNT
KUZE.



FOR
NOW, I ASK
THAT YOU
PLEASE
LEAVE
MINE.

...I WILL
COME
TO YOUR
ROOM.



...THIS
MYSTE-
RIOUS
BUSINESS
WITH MY
FATHER.

AGAIN

AGAIN
WITH MY
"PREDE-
CESSOR."

...!



I AM NOT
ASKING YOU
FOR YOUR
OPINION.

THIS
HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH
YOU. IT'S
SOMETHING
THAT WAS
DECIDED BY
YOUR FATHER
AND
MYSELF.

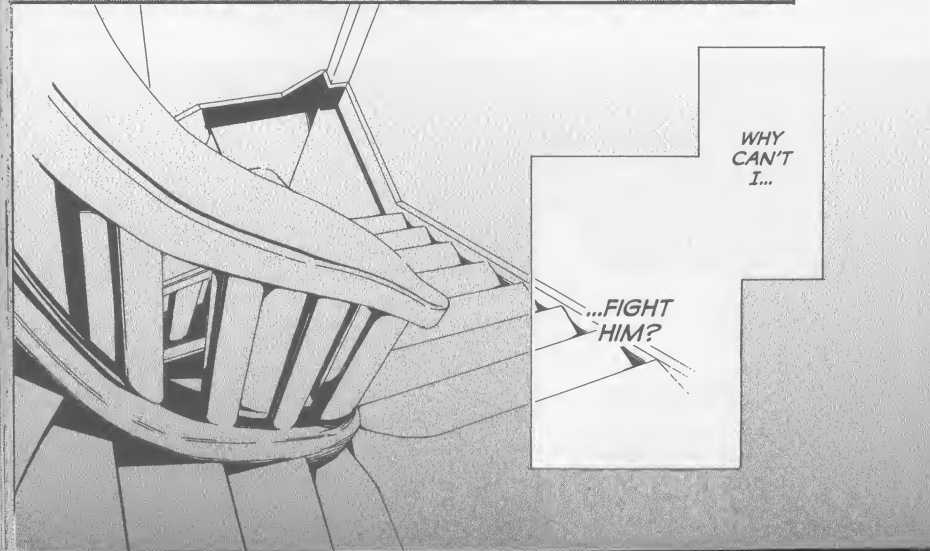
HOW MANY
TIMES MUST
I SAY THIS
BEFORE
YOU UNDER-
STAND?



I ASSUME
YOU ARE DONE
HERE NOW?
PLEASE FEEL
FREE TO RETURN
TO YOUR
ROOM.

...!

KA-CHAK



WHY
CAN'T
I...

...FIGHT
HIM?

I JUST
SAID YOU
SHOULD
GO SEE
YOUR
FATHER...

SO
WHY IS
THIS...

WHAT?!
WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?

I'VE
SAID
TOO
MUCH.

ARE YOU
TELLING ME
TO GET
OUT?

I
APOLOGIZE.

S
L
A
M

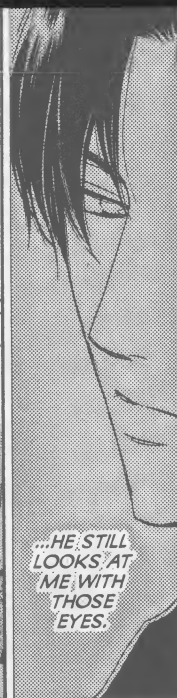
WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING?



WHAT
DID I
EVER
DO TO
HIM?

NO
MATTER HOW
MUCH I WAS
HATED... NOW
MATTER HOW
MUCH I WAS
DESPISED...

I WAS
ABLE TO
STAND
IT ALL
BECAUSE...



...HE STILL
LOOKS AT
ME WITH
THOSE
EYES.

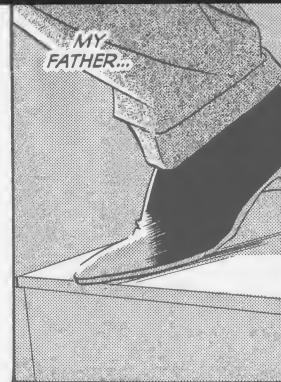


SLUMP

HE'S
KNOWN
FOR A
LONG
TIME HOW
I FEEL.

HE
DOESN'T
PLAY
FAIR.

HE
KNOWS
AND
YET...



MY
FATHER...



I AM THE
MASTER
OF THIS
HOUSE.
NOT MY
FATHER.



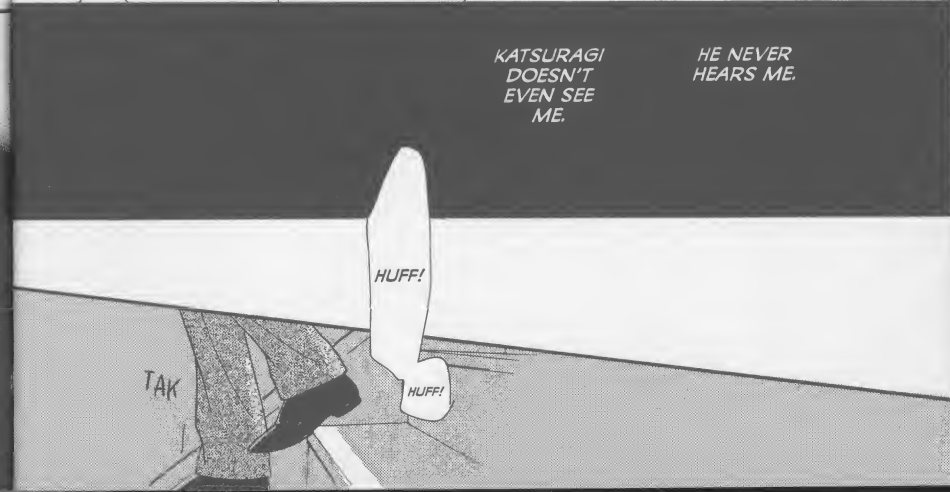
TELLING
ME TO
GET OUT!
TALKING
TO ME
LIKE THAT!



MY FATHER'S
NOT HERE
AND STILL...



...I WANTED
TO MAKE
YOU PROUD.



KATSURAGI
DOESN'T
EVEN SEE
ME.

HE NEVER
HEARS ME.

HUFF!

HUFF!

TAK



KUZE!
OVER
HERE!



WHEN I
ASKED MY
DAD, IT
TURNED OUT
HE HAD JUST
MADE PLANS
TO SEE THE
HEAD OF THE
KATSURAGIS
ANYWAY.

HE
SHOULD
BE HERE
SOON.

GREAT.



...SORRY
TO ASK
YOU FOR
A FAVOR
LIKE
THIS...

ISHI-
ZAKI

HA
HA
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.



BECAUSE I
THOUGHT
NO MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENED...

...I WANTED
TO BE WITH
YOU.

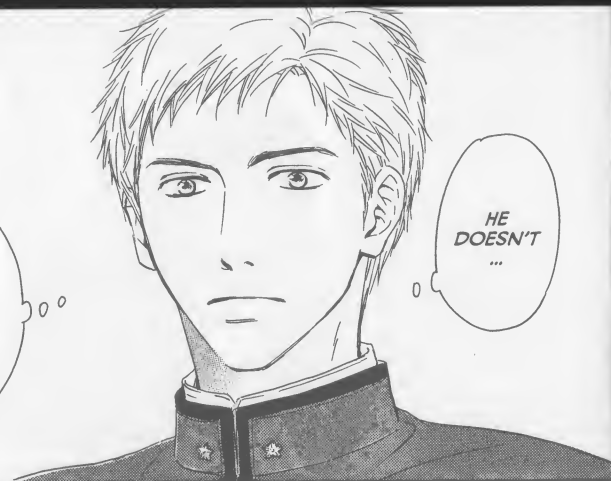


FATHER
...

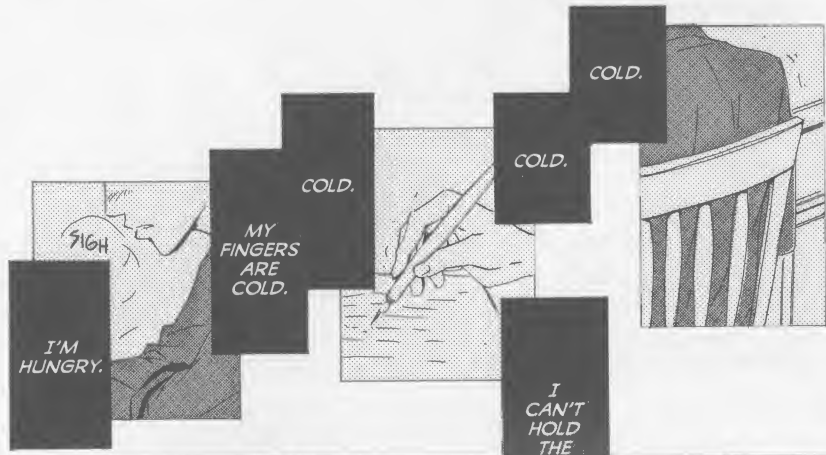


UP TO
NOW... I'VE
TRIED NOT
TO THINK
ABOUT
HIM, BUT...

...LOOK ANY-
THING LIKE
KATSURAGI.



HE
DOESN'T
...



I
GUESS.
OH!



...WELL, A
LOT OF
THINGS
HAVE
HAP-
PENED.



THIS
WAY
PLEASE.
HE
ACTUALLY
ASKED MORE
THAN ONCE
IF IT WAS
REALLY
VISCOUNT
KUZE
INVITING
HIM.
YOU'RE
REALLY
THAT ES-
TRANGED?



HE BASICALLY
TAKES CARE OF
EVERYTHING FOR
THE BANK THE
KATSURAGIS
MANAGE.

THERE HE
IS! THAT'S
MASTER
TAKAYUKI
KATSURAGI.
HE'S THE
ELDEST.



Blue Morning: Scene 3



HONESTLY ...

HE REALLY IS NOTHING LIKE HIS FATHER.



Scene 3 END



IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE KIKU FELL ILL AND RETIRED.

YES, SIR?

SINCE YOU'RE THE NEW HOUSE-KEEPER, DID SHE HAPPEN TO MENTION ANY OF THIS TO YOU?

NO... WELL...

KIKU SAID THERE WAS SOME DIFFERENCE IN WHAT SHOULD BE SENT TO THE MORIYAMAS AS OPPOSED TO THE SAIONJIS.



I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

...SHE DIDN'T GIVE ME THE DETAILS ABOUT WHAT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO WHICH PARTY...

SHE DID MENTION IT, BUT...



THE SAIONJI FAMILY?

I'LL GO.

NO, IT'S FINE.

I'LL GO RIGHT AWAY TO MADAM KIKU'S HOME IN NEGISHI.



DID YOU SEND A MESSENGER TO THE MORIYAMAS?

GOOD.

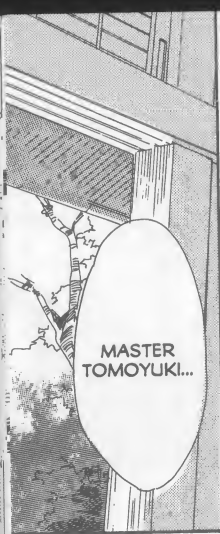
I DID.

WHEN THE LETTER ARRIVES, GIVE IT TO TAMURA.

YES, SIR.

WE HAVE TO SEND A CONGRATULATORY GIFT TO THE SAIONJIS.

ALTHOUGH...



MASTER TOMOYUKI...



BUT IT MUST BE HARD LIVING HERE ALONE WITH JUST YOUR MAID? AT LEAST TAKE ANOTHER SERVANT...

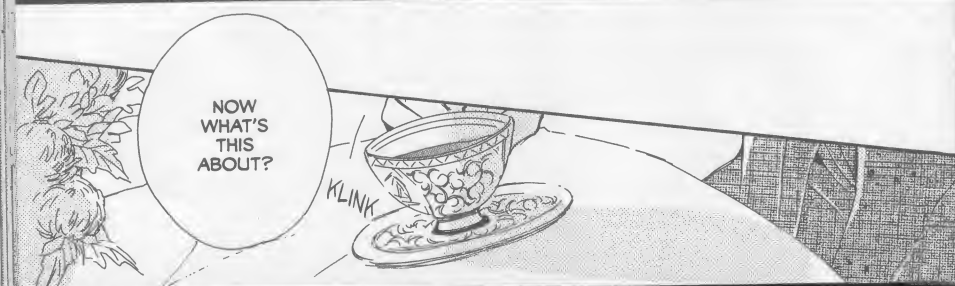


MASTER KATSU-RAGI.

I THINK IT BEST YOU NO LONGER COME HERE.



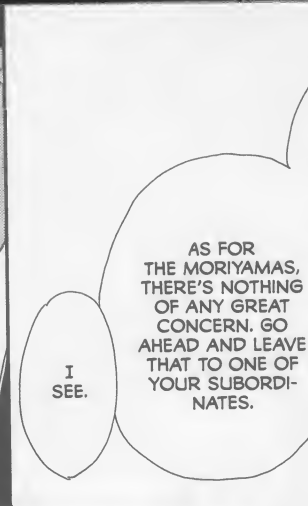
ONCE I AM GONE, THERE WILL BE NO ONE LEFT IN THE KUZE HOUSEHOLD WHO KNOWS ABOUT YOU.



NOW WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

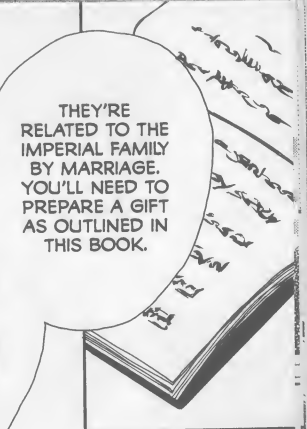


AS ALWAYS, YOU ARE SUCH A HELP TO ME.



I SEE.

AS FOR THE MORIYAMAS, THERE'S NOTHING OF ANY GREAT CONCERN. GO AHEAD AND LEAVE THAT TO ONE OF YOUR SUBORDINATES.



THEY'RE RELATED TO THE IMPERIAL FAMILY BY MARRIAGE. YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE A GIFT AS OUTLINED IN THIS BOOK.



...



HOW IS THE NEW DOCTOR?

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, I CAN MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AWAY.

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN.

BUT IT'S ALREADY ...





I DON'T WISH TO INTRUDE ON THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE-KEEPER, BUT HONESTLY, I WAS SURPRISED.

BEFORE I KNEW IT, YOU HAD REPLACED ALL THE MAIDS AND SERVANTS ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

I SUPPOSE SO.



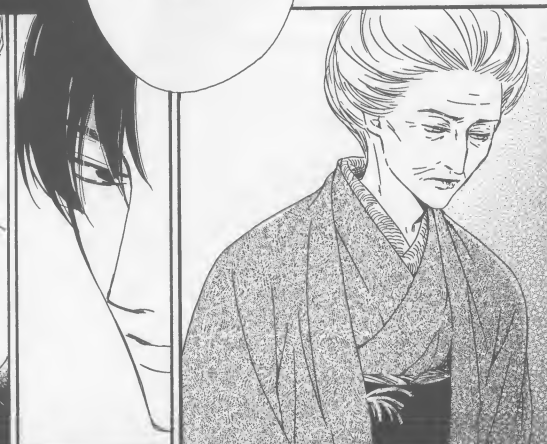
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE MASTER AKIHITO WAS BORN.

NO ONE KNOWS OR EVEN THINKS ABOUT HOW I CAME TO THE KUZE HOUSEHOLD.

DID YOU DO ALL THIS FOR MASTER AKIHITO'S SAKE?



NO.



OUR FATHER WAS ALSO VERY RELIEVED AT THE TIME.

PERHAPS IT IS, BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT-

AS A RESULT, TOMOYUKI BECAME A MEMBER OF THE KUZE HOUSEHOLD.

NO MATTER HOW THEY TREATED HIM, GOING FROM A BRANCH FAMILY TO THE MAIN FAMILY IS A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

IN THAT CASE, THE KUZE AND THE KATSURAGI SHOULD HAVE GROWN CLOSER.

BUT EVEN THOUGH HIS OWN FATHER IS ILL... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE WON'T GO BACK TO HIS REAL FAMILY.



ALTHOUGH THERE'S SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WHO KNOWS MUCH MORE ABOUT IT THAN I DO.

IT'S A FUNNY STORY.

I ALSO DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY MY FATHER FORBODE HIM TO RETURN TO THE KATSURAGI HOME.



NO, THERE'S-

WELL... IF YOU THINK HARD ENOUGH ABOUT IT, I'M SURE YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.



TAMURA
TOLD ME THAT
OUR FORMER
MASTER WAS
EXCEEDINGLY
KIND TO MASTER
AKIHITO AT
KAMAKURA.

I
WONDER.

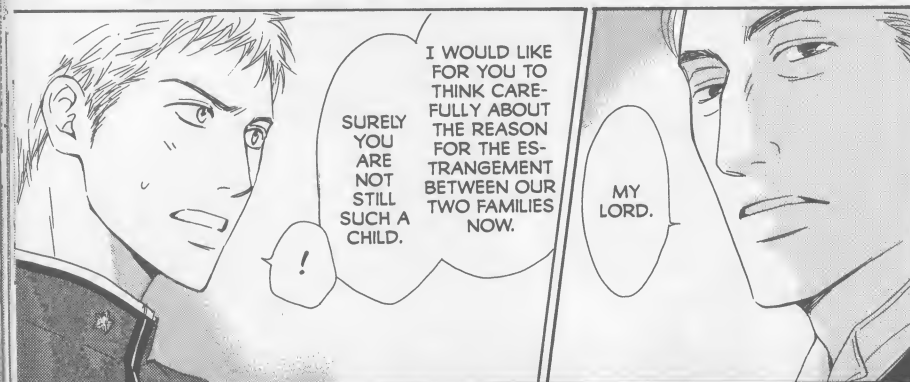
I... I
CAN'T EVEN
IMAGINE
IT, BUT...



OH...
BUT
WAIT-

...I HAVE
SOME
BUSINESS TO
ATTEND
TO.

I REALLY
AM VERY
SORRY,
HOWEVER...



SURELY
YOU
ARE
NOT
STILL
SUCH A
CHILD.

I WOULD LIKE
FOR YOU TO
THINK CARE-
FULLY ABOUT
THE REASON
FOR THE ES-
TRANGEMENT
BETWEEN OUR
TWO FAMILIES
NOW.

MY
LORD.



IT WAS
FOR
YOUR
SAKE.

YOU
REALLY DO
RESEMBLE
MASTER
AKINAO.

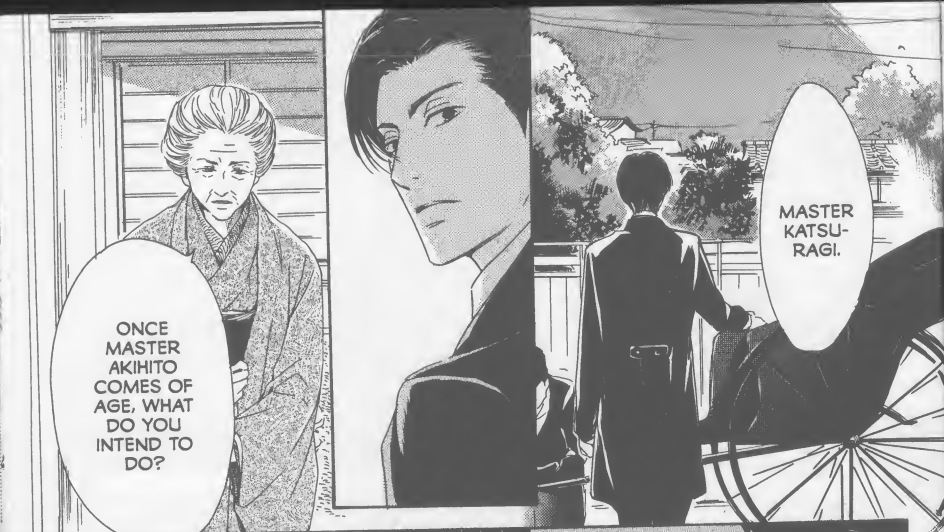
THE WAY
YOU SPEAK.
THE WAY YOU
HOLD YOURSELF,
THE WAY YOU
MOVE... IT'S
SO MUCH LIKE
HIM THAT AT
TIMES I'M
ALMOST
FRIGHTENED.

SPEAKING WITH
YOU LIKE THIS
NOW, MASTER
TOMOYUKI, THERE
ARE MOMENTS
WHEN I FEEL THAT
OUR OLD MASTER
HAS COME BACK
TO LIFE.

IF OUR
FORMER
MASTER WERE
ALIVE, I SUPPOSE
HE WOULD'VE
RAISED MASTER
AKIHITO JUST AS
YOU HAVE.

...



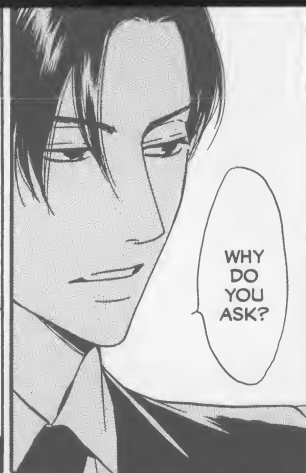




TO KIKU'S.

IS THAT SO, SIR?

THE YOUNG MASTER HAS ASKED THAT I REPORT TO HIM WHEN YOU GO OUT, MASTER KATSURAGI.



WHY DO YOU ASK?



WE MUST FIND HER A BETTER DOCTOR.

POORLY. SHE'S GOTTEN QUITE THIN.

HOW IS KIKU FARING?



I WONDER, AM I LIKE OUR MASTER WAS THEN?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WERE...

NO, AT THAT TIME I SERVED OUR MASTER'S WIFE AND WAS LIVING IN THE VILLA AT KAMAKURA.



... TAMURA.

YES, SIR?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I CAME TO THIS HOUSE?



KIKU? WHERE IS THE VISCOUNT GOING?

KLAK KLAK KLAK

KLAK KLAK KLAK

KLAK KLAK KLAK

MASTER TOMOYUKI.

WHY?

HIS LORDSHIP IS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR THE VILLA IN KAMAKURA.



YOU MUST HAVE HEARD?



WELCOME HOME, SIR.

AND WHERE WERE YOU TODAY?



...THERE'S NO WAY I CAN KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN.



GOING FORWARD...

KLAK KLAK KLAK

KLAK KLAK KLAK



YOU'RE THE ONLY DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE KUZE NAME, RIGHT?

NO, I'M JUST GOING TO GO HOME.

YOU'RE NOT COMING IN?

HEY, KUZE!

GRAB



IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU, YOUR HOUSE WOULD END. YOUR TITLE WOULD BE LOST TOO.

THINK CAREFULLY.

...I KNOW THAT.



MY FATHER SAID HE WOULD NEVER COME BACK TO THE KATSURAGI HOME.

TOMOYUKI WAS TAKEN IN BY THE FORMER VISCOUNT KUZE TWENTY YEARS AGO.

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY, YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.



HEH

...PERHAPS I'M POSSESSED.

HM? OH, I SUPPOSE SO...

RECENTLY, I'VE BEGUN TO THINK YOU'VE GROWN TO RESEMBLE HIM.

OH, NOTHING.

WHAT'S THAT?

OH! BEFORE I FORGET, A LETTER CAME FROM THE MORIYAMAS.



WELCOME HOME, SIR.

WELCOME, MASTER ISHIZAKI.



AND
HOW IS
SHE?

I'M
SURPRISED.
I DIDN'T KNOW
YOU HAD BEEN
VISITING HER.
I'M GUESSING
SHE WAS
HAPPY TO
SEE YOU?

SO YOU
WENT TO
KIKU'S?



DID
YOU
NEED
SOME-
THING?



URGH

YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO SAY
IT LIKE
THAT.



NOT WELL.
I DON'T
THINK SHE
HAS MUCH
LONGER.



WHY...

I TOLD YOU
BEFORE, I'D
APPRECIATE IT
IF YOU DIDN'T
DISCUSS THE
KATSURAGIS.

I'VE
THOUGHT
IT OVER.



WHAT'S
THE
MAT-
TER?

I MET
WITH YOUR
OLDER
BROTHER,
THE ONE
WHO'S
CURRENTLY
THE HEAD
OF YOUR
HOUSE.



GAH
...

KUNK

KATSU-
RAGI?

KNOCK

KATSU-
RAGI...

YOU'RE
BACK,
AREN'T
YOU?

KNOCK

KNOCK

KA-
CHAK



COME
IN.

K
E
E

I SAID
THAT IF YOU
NEEDED ME I
WOULD COME
TO YOUR
ROOM, DID I
NOT, MASTER
AKIHITO?

IT WAS
TWO YEARS
LATER THAT
YOU WERE
BORN.



MASTER
AKIHITO!

IF--

IF I WENT
TO SEE MY
FATHER, SHED
SOME TEARS,
AND REPORTED
BACK TO YOU,
WOULD THAT
SATISFY
YOU?

WHAT
?

WHAT
IS IT
YOU
WANT?

NO!
THAT'S...

KATSU-

MY
FORMER
MASTER
AND I...

NO ONE'S
BOtherED TO
GIVE US ANY
THOUGHT, SO
WHY ARE YOU
NOW-

GRAB



MY
MOTHER
WAS AN
IMPERIAL
PRINCESS
AND VERY
WEAK.

QUITE
A BIT,
ACTUALLY.

MY FATHER,
OBSESSED WITH
ALL THINGS
WESTERN, SET
HIMSELF ON THE
IDEA OF ONE
MAN FOR ONE
WOMAN, AND
CHERISHED HER
WITHOUT EVER
TAKING A
MISTRESS.

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
WEALTH HE
ACCUMULATED,
HE HAD NO ONE
TO PASS IT
ON TO.

BEING
OVER THIRTY
WITH NO HEIR
PROBABLY
CAUSED HIM
TO WORRY.

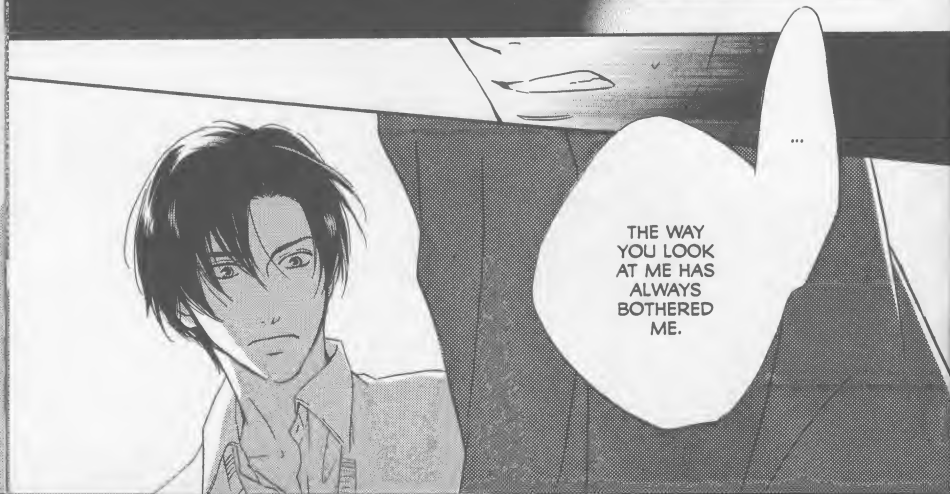


IF
YOU THINK
ABOUT IT
CAREFULLY,
YOU'LL
FIGURE IT
OUT.



VISCOUNT.

PERHAPS YOU
SHOULD CONSIDER
MATTERS FROM THE
POINT OF VIEW OF
YOUR "INFERIORS"?



THE WAY
YOU LOOK
AT ME HAS
ALWAYS
BOtherED
ME.



WHY
DO YOU
ALWAYS
...!

WHY DON'T
YOU TRY GOING
BACK TO YOUR
REAL FAMILY?
WHY ARE YOU
SO STUCK ON
RAISING MY
RANK?



AH...



JUST
BECAUSE
I SEDUCE
MEN AND
WOMEN
ALIKE...

...PLEASE
DON'T THINK
YOU CAN DO
THE SAME
THING.

THAT'S
NOT IT!

I JUST
WANT TO
TALK TO
YOU.



MASTER
AKIHITO.



FOR
MY SAKE,
YOU...



WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
ME TO
SAY?



I DON'T
KNOW HOW
BEST TO PUT
IT, BUT IT'S
SO COLD.

I'VE ALWAYS
HATED THAT.
AND I'VE
WORKED SO
HARD TO MAKE
YOU LIKE ME
SOMEHOW,
BUT...



BUT
EVEN STILL,
I'M JUST
AN OBSTACLE
TO YOU.





SO YOU
WANT ME TO
SAY THAT IT
WOULD'VE BEEN
BETTER IF YOU
HADN'T BEEN
BORN?

SQUEEZE

THAT IF ONLY
YOU DIDN'T EXIST,
I WOULD'VE BEEN
ADOPTED AND I
WOULD BE THE
ONE TO INHERIT
THE KUZE
NAME?

IS THAT
WHAT YOU
WANT ME
TO SAY, MY
LORD?





KATSU-
RAGI

...JUST SO
YOU COULD
PUSH YOUR
FOOLISH IDEAS
ON ME?

A WHOLE
DAY WASTED
ON SUCH
TIRESOME
MATTERS...

IS THAT
THE REASON
YOU WERE
AWAY FROM
THE MANOR
TODAY?

MASTER
AKIHITO.

REGRETTABLY,
I CANNOT
INHERIT THE
KUZE NAME.





WHAT
ON EARTH
COULD A
CHILD LIKE
THAT HAVE
DONE?



COMPARED
TO ME, YOU
ARE YOUR
OWN
PERSON.

KATSU-



MASTER
AKIHITO.

THEY
SAY THAT I
STRONGLY
RESEMBLE
YOUR
FATHER. THE
WAY I CARRY
MYSELF, THE
WAY I
TALK.

AND
THAT'S
ONLY
NATU-
RAL.

I'VE
WORKED
HARD
SINCE
CHILD-
HOOD TO
BE LIKE
THIS.



WE
KATSURAGIS
ARE INDEED
A BRANCH
OF THE KUZE
FAMILY, BUT
WE ARE
MATRILINEAL.

INHERITANCE IN
A TITLED FAMILY IS
ONLY PERMITTED
THROUGH
THE MALE LINEAGE,
REGARDLESS OF
WHETHER THAT
SON IS RELATED
BY BLOOD OR
ADOPTED.

IN OTHER
WORDS, I AM
NOT QUALIFIED
TO RECEIVE A
PEERAGE.



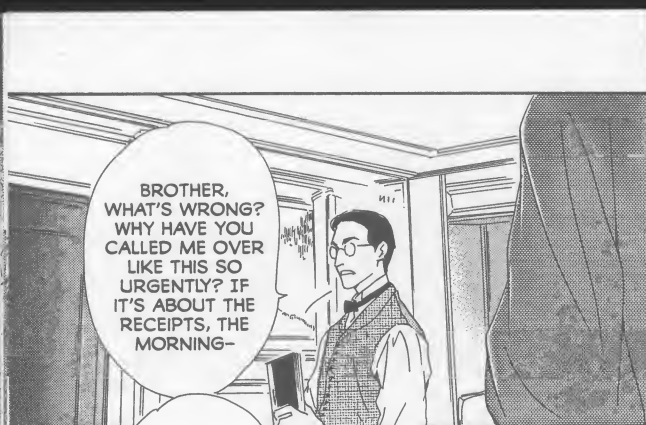
JUST
AS YOUR
PREDE-
CESSOR
AND THE
FATHER
OF THE
KATSURAGI
FAMILY
TOLD
ME IT
WOULD?

WHEN I
CAME TO
THIS HOUSE,
I WAS NINE
YEARS
OLD.



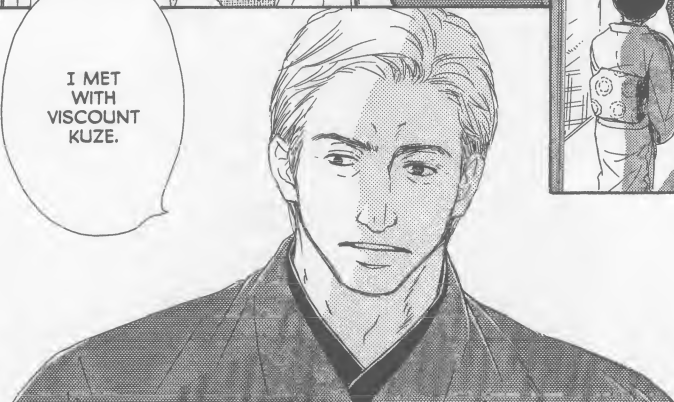
EVEN
SO, YOU-

DO YOU
BELIEVE THAT
IT SOMEHOW
WOULD HAVE
WORKED
OUT?



BROTHER,
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY HAVE YOU
CALLED ME OVER
LIKE THIS SO
URGENTLY? IF
IT'S ABOUT THE
RECEIPTS, THE
MORNING-

I MET
WITH
VISCOUNT
KUZE.



UNDER-
STOOD,
SIR.

NO ONE
IS TO
COME
NEAR THIS
ROOM
FOR THE
TIME
BEING.



YOU'RE
NOTHING
LIKE YOUR
PREDECE-
SOR.

HAVE
YOU EVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT HOW
MUCH THAT
IRRITATES
ME?



WHAT
ON
EARTH-

I WAS
ASKED
DIRECTLY
BY THE
ISHIZAKIS.

I COULDN'T
REFUSE SUCH
A GOOD
CUSTOMER.
WE'RE JUST
A BANK,
AFTER ALL.



...!



HE'S
WAITING
IN THE
SALON.

WHERE'S
HIRO-
YUKI?

WELCOME
HOME.

WELCOME
HOME, SIR.



I'M NOT SAYING HE'S BAD. I'M JUST SAYING IT'S HARD TO DEAL WITH HIM.

EVEN IF HE IS A CHILD, HE'S STILL A HIGHER RANK THAN WE ARE. HE'S THE MASTER OF THE MAIN FAMILY.



AND THE KATSURAGIS AREN'T TO BLAME HERE.

IT'S NOT BREAKING ANY PROMISES NOW.

BUT, WELL... IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE THE FORMER VISCOUNT PASSED AWAY, AND OUR FATHER'S JUST BARELY ALIVE.



HOW SO?

HE'S NOTHING LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, MASTER AKINAO.

THE TRUTH IS, HIS IMMATURITY IS STRIKING, BUT HE'S NOT STUPID.

HE KNEW IF HE WENT THROUGH THE ISHIZAKIS HE COULD SEE ME.

HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT CUNNINGNESS OR BEHAVIOR SO UNSUITED TO A NOBLE, LIKE HIS FATHER DID.

IT'S PROBABLY HIS MOTHER'S BLOOD THAT MAKES HIM APPEAR SO CALM.

HE UNDERSTANDS STRATEGY.

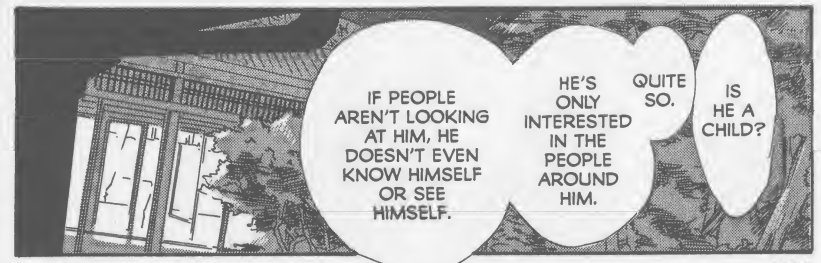


HMPH
HE'S NOT VERY GOOD AT TALKING, A CHILD LIKE THAT.

SO? WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH VISCOUNT KUZE?

WHAT DID WE TALK ABOUT?

WELL...



IF PEOPLE AREN'T LOOKING AT HIM, HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HIMSELF OR SEE HIMSELF.

HE'S ONLY INTERESTED IN THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM.

QUITE SO.

IS HE A CHILD?

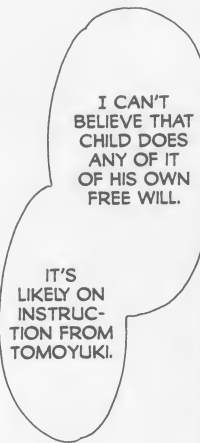


NO.

IT'S
PROBABLY
ALREADY
TOO LATE.

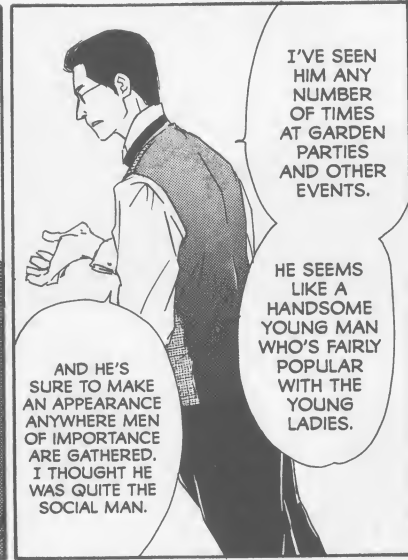
I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
PLANS HE HAD
RAISING THAT
BOY, BUT...

...WITH THAT
STRAIGHT-
FORWARD
PERSONALITY,
HE'S QUITE LIKELY
TO SAY TOO
MUCH BY
ACCIDENT.



I CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT
CHILD DOES
ANY OF IT
OF HIS OWN
FREE WILL.

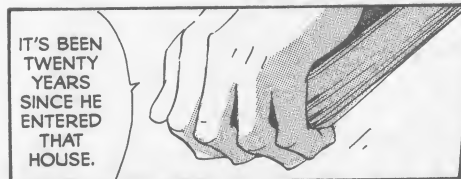
IT'S
LIKELY ON
INSTRUCTION
FROM
TOMOYUKI.



I'VE SEEN
HIM ANY
NUMBER
OF TIMES
AT GARDEN
PARTIES
AND OTHER
EVENTS.

HE SEEMS
LIKE A
HANDSOME
YOUNG MAN
WHO'S FAIRLY
POPULAR
WITH THE
YOUNG LADIES.

AND HE'S
SURE TO MAKE
AN APPEARANCE
ANYWHERE MEN
OF IMPORTANCE
ARE GATHERED.
I THOUGHT HE
WAS QUITE THE
SOCIAL MAN.



IT'S BEEN
TWENTY
YEARS
SINCE HE
ENTERED
THAT
HOUSE.



TOMOYUKI
...



BROTHER?



I'VE
ONLY HEARD
RUMORS, BUT
IT SEEMS THAT
HE FULFILLS HIS
DUTIES QUITE
THOROUGHLY.



A NINE-
YEAR-OLD
CHILD
TAKEN IN
NEVER TO
RETURN
HOME
AGAIN.

A VISCOUNT
WHO HAD
PASSED
THIRTY WITH
NO HEIR.



...UNDERSTANDS
BETTER THAN
ANYONE THE
THINKING OF
THE MASTER OF
THE HOUSE.

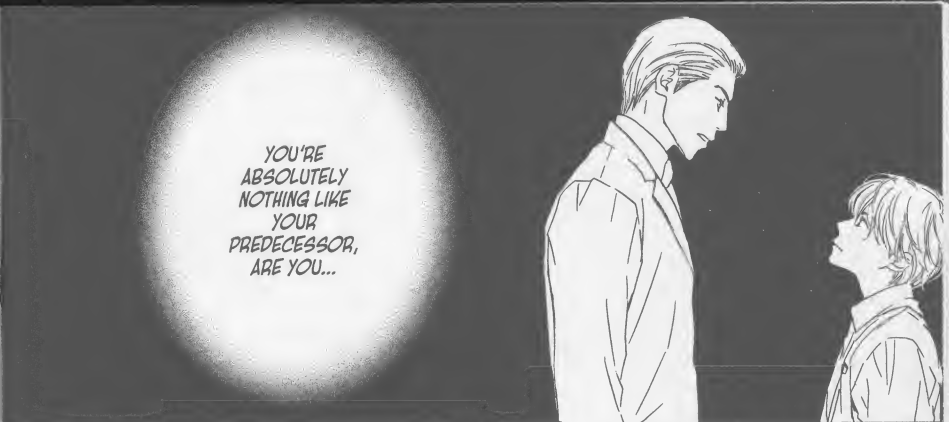


I BELIEVED
THAT IF I COULD
BE PERFECT,
THEN I'D BE
GIVEN A PLACE
OF MY OWN.

IF I BECAME
PERFECT,
ABOVE
REPROACH...

BUT JUST
BECAUSE
SHE KNEW,
WHAT
COULD
SHE SAY?

KIKU
KNEW. I
GUESS
SHE
WOULD
HAVE.



YOU'RE
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING LIKE
YOUR
PREDECESSOR,
ARE YOU...



HOW
MANY TIMES
HAS HE
REJECTED
ME LIKE
THAT?

...
HOW
MANY
TIMES HAS
HE SAID
THAT TO
ME?



WHEN
KATSURAGI
CAME
TO THIS
HOUSE...

...
I
FORGET.



MASTER
KATSURAGI
...

...WHAT DID
MY FATHER
SAY TO
HIM?

...BEEN
BETTER IF
YOU HADN'T
BEEN
BORN?

THAT IT
WOULD'VE...

WHAT DO
YOU WANT
ME TO
SAY?

HE KNOWS
EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE YET
TO LEARN.

YOU STILL
HAVE
KATSURAGI.

KNOCK

MASTER
AKIHITO.

I'VE
HAD
ENOUGH
TODAY.

SHUT
UP.

KNOCK

KNOCK

MAY I
HAVE A
MOMENT
?

CLICK

IT'S
ME.

IF I BECAME
WHAT HE WANTED,
SOMEDAY HE WOULD
APPROVE OF ME.
SOMEDAY WE WOULD
UNDERSTAND EACH
OTHER, AND THEN...

IT'S
SOMETHING
EVERY
DISTINGUISHED
FAMILY
DOES.

EVEN IF HE
DOES COME
FROM A
MATRILINEAL
BRANCH, HE
COULD HAVE
A TITLE IF WE
REPEATED THE
ADOPTION
PROCESS.

BECAUSE OF
SOMETHING
AS STUPID
AS THAT.

BECAUSE
OF
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

THAT'S
WHAT A
NOBLE
COMMAND
IS, AFTER
ALL, A
COMMAND.

DID HE LIVE
WITH MY
FATHER FOR
NEARLY TEN
YEARS, BEING
TOLD THE
WHOLE TIME
THAT IT WAS
ALL FOR THE
KUZE FAMILY?

WAS HE
STRICT
THE WAY
KATSURAGI
WAS WITH
ME?

I WONDER
WHAT MY
FATHER
WAS LIKE
WITH
KATSURAGI.



KACHAK

ABOUT BEFORE, I-



WHAT IS IT?

JUST COME HERE.



COME OVER HERE.



MASTER AKIHITO.

I'D PREFER IT IF THE DISCUSSION OF THE KATSURAGIS WAS LEFT AT THAT.



PLEASE FOCUS YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE KUZE FAMILY ALONE.



MY PAST IS ALSO OF NO CONCERN.



THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL ALSO BE THERE, SO PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ATTEND.

I FORGOT, SIR. MARQUISE MORIYAMA SENT AN INVITATION TO AN EVENING PARTY.



THERE'S THE MATTER OF YOU STUDYING ABROAD, SO GOING AND PAYING YOUR RESPECTS WILL PROVE BENEFICIAL LATER.



KATSURAGI.

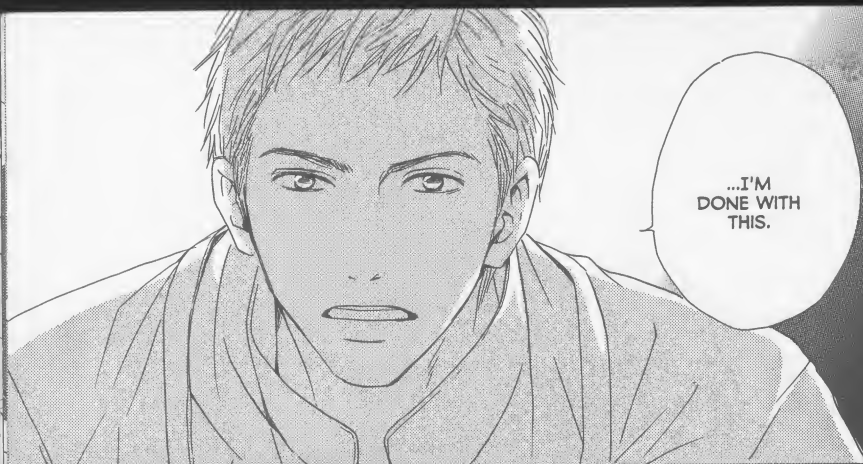
I APOLOGIZE FOR DISTURBING YOU SO LATE IN THE EVENING.



I'VE ALREADY SENT A RESPONSE ON YOUR BEHALF.



WHAT?



...I'M
DONE WITH
THIS.



WHAT
ARE
YOU--



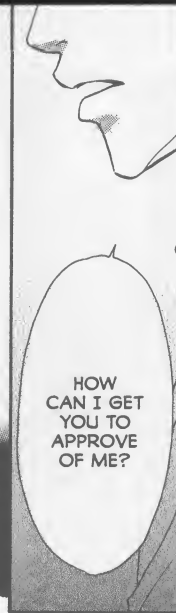
...I'M
GIVING UP
ON YOUR
FEELINGS.

FROM
NOW
ON...

!

!

GRAB



HOW
CAN I GET
YOU TO
APPROVE
OF ME?



I'VE BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT IT
EVER SINCE
I WAS
LITTLE.

HOW
CAN I...



HEH

I...



BUT...

...YOU
DON'T.

AND YOU
NEVER WILL
AS LONG
AS I LIVE.

BECAUSE
APPROVING
OF ME MEANS
DENYING
YOUR OWN
SELF.

WHICH
IS
WHY...



I CAN
GIVE YOU
THE KUZE
FAMILY.

KATSURAGI,
I CAN MAKE
THEM GIVE
YOU A TITLE.



I'M
ALIVE. I'M
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAN.

MY DEAD
FATHER
CAN'T DO
THAT
ANYMORE.

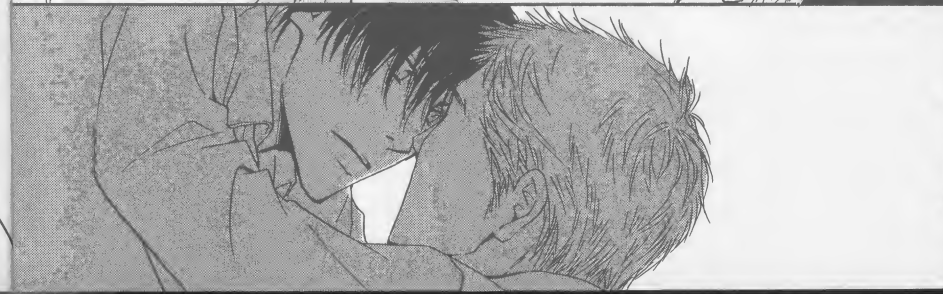


THIS IS
RIDICU-
LOUS.



IT'S
SOMETHING
YOU DO ALL
THE TIME
ANYWAY,
ISN'T IT?

LET'S
MAKE A
DEAL.





KATSURAGI.

LOOK
AT ME.



SAY
SOMETHING.



IS
THAT...AN
ORDER?



YOU'VE
NEVER
LOOKED AT
ME, NOT
ONCE!

RIGHT
FROM THE
START I'VE
BEEN
INVISIBLE
TO YOU.



DO YOU
INTEND
TO RUIN
EVERYTHING
WE'VE
DONE UP
TO NOW?

YOU
AND I ARE
SUPPOSED
TO HAVE A
CERTAIN LEVEL
OF TRUST
IN ONE
ANOTHER.

YOU
SHOULD
TALK!



GRAB

W
H
O
M
P



I MISLED
HIM WITH
WORDS
LIKE
FALSE
PROMISES.

AND
I CAN
GRANT
YOU...

I CAN DO
WHAT MY
FATHER
COULDN'T.



...YOUR
TITLE TOO,
KATSURAGI.

I
PRETENDED
I HAD
SOME
LEVERAGE.



MM!

SHLD

KISS

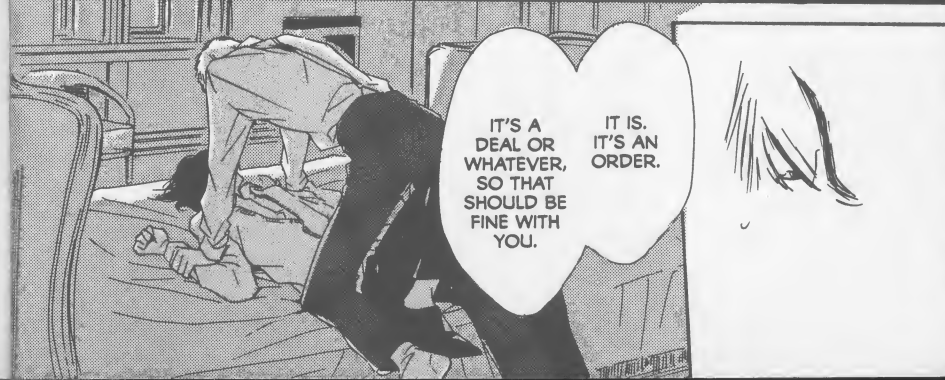


IF
IT'S AN
ORDER,
I WILL
OBEY.



IT'S A
DEAL OR
WHATEVER,
SO THAT
SHOULD BE
FINE WITH
YOU.

IT IS.
IT'S AN
ORDER.





YANK

I KNOW THIS, BUT I CAN'T STOP.



I'M JUST THE SAME AS THEM.



KATSURAGI'S EYES...



...LOOK AS IF HE COULD CARE LESS ABOUT ANY OF THIS.

KATSURAGI...

I...



SKRTCH

AH!

SHOVE

NGH!

YOU SAID...

...YOU'D OBEY ME, DIDN'T YOU?!



WHAT AM I DOING?



THIS ISN'T WHAT I HAD PLANNED.



NGH

SQUEEZE

GRAB

TUG

IT HURTS!

NGH!





IT WASN'T
SUPPOSED
TO...



...THAT I
WOULD
ONE DAY BE
PERFECT AND
HE WOULD
FINALLY
APPROVE
OF ME.

I HAD
IMAGINED...



IT WASN'T
SUPPOSED
TO BE LIKE
THAT.

...
KATSU-
RAGI.



I
COULDN'T
BE GENTLE
WITH HIM.





I ASKED THE
DEAN AND HE
SAID HE'D
ATTEND.



THAT'S...

SO THAT
I COULD
WALK SIDE
BY SIDE
WITH HIM...

SO THAT
WE COULD
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER
MORE DEEPLY...



THAT'S
HOW I
WANTED IT
TO BE.

KATSURAGI...



IF HE
BECOMES PART
OF THE KUZE
FAMILY, THERE
IS ABSOLUTELY
NO WAY HIS
PARENTAGE WILL
BE EXPOSED.



HIS MOTHER
DIED A LONG
TIME AGO.



THESE THINGS
WILL WORK
THEMSELVES
OUT.

BUT...

IT'S TRUE
YOU'RE
MATRILINEAL,
BUT HE IS MY
COUSIN'S SON.
IT'S NOT AS
THOUGH THE
BLOOD IS
WEAK.

BUT WE
KATSURAGIS
...

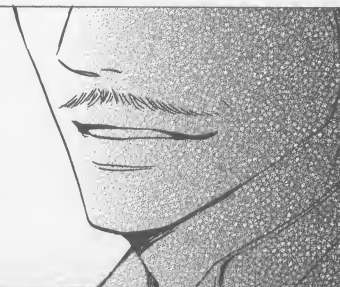
AND HE'S
BEAUTIFUL
TO LOOK
AT, NOT
A SINGLE
FLAW.

HE'S JUST
THE RIGHT
AGE TOO.

AS LONG AS
HE BRINGS IN
MONEY, HE
CAN HIDE HIS
ORIGINS.

AND THEN
JOIN THE MAIN
FAMILY.

I SUPPOSE.
HAVE HIM GO TO
UNCLE KUZE'S
HOUSE AS A
FOSTER SON.



...

MASTER
AKIHITO
UNDERSTANDS
NOTHING.

THERE
ARE A GREAT
MANY THINGS
IN THIS WORLD
THAT JUST
DON'T WORK
OUT.

FATHER...
WHO IS
TOMOYUKI'S
MOTHER?

IF SHE SAYS
ANYTHING—

SHE'S NOT A
PROBLEM.

I DOUBT HE
TAKES AFTER
HIS MOTHER TO
THAT EXTENT.

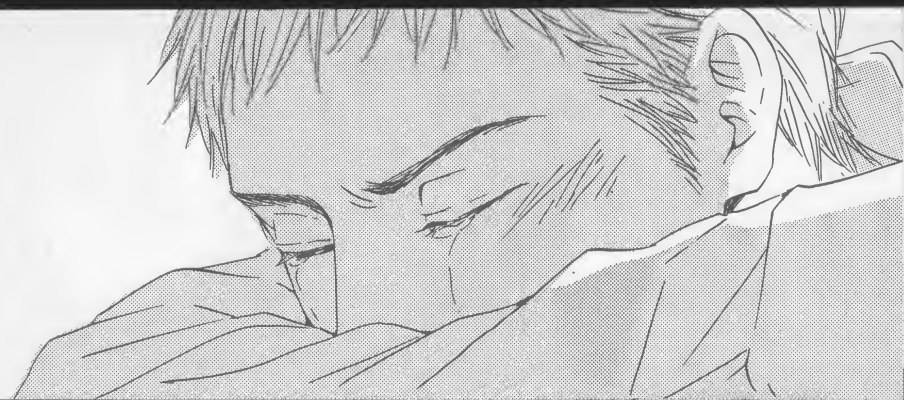
EITHER
WAY, EVEN
IF HE STAYS
HERE, IT'LL BE
A PROBLEM
ONE DAY.

ARE
YOU
SURE?

TOMOYUKI
DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE ANYONE IN
THE KATSURAGI
FAMILY.



Blue Morning: Scene 5



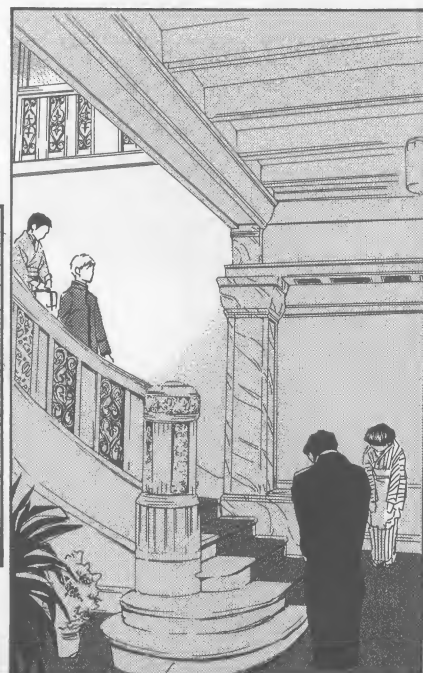
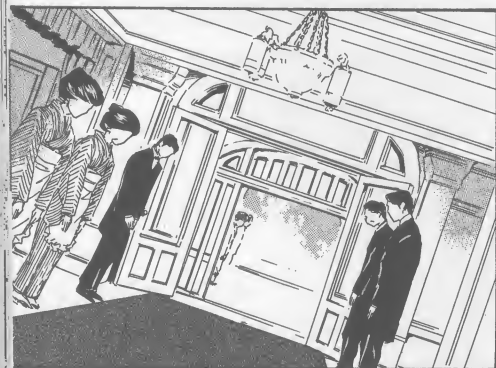
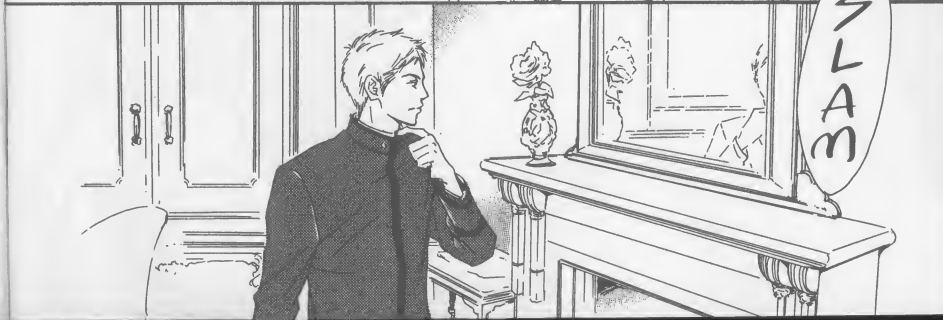
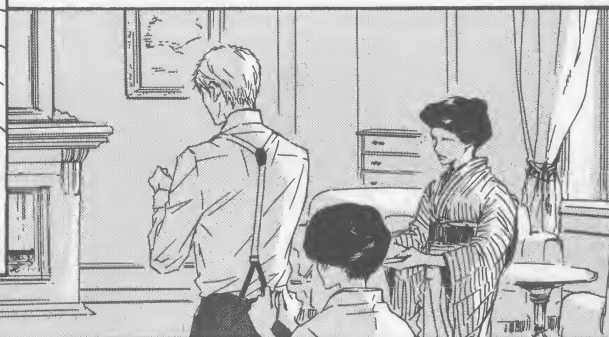
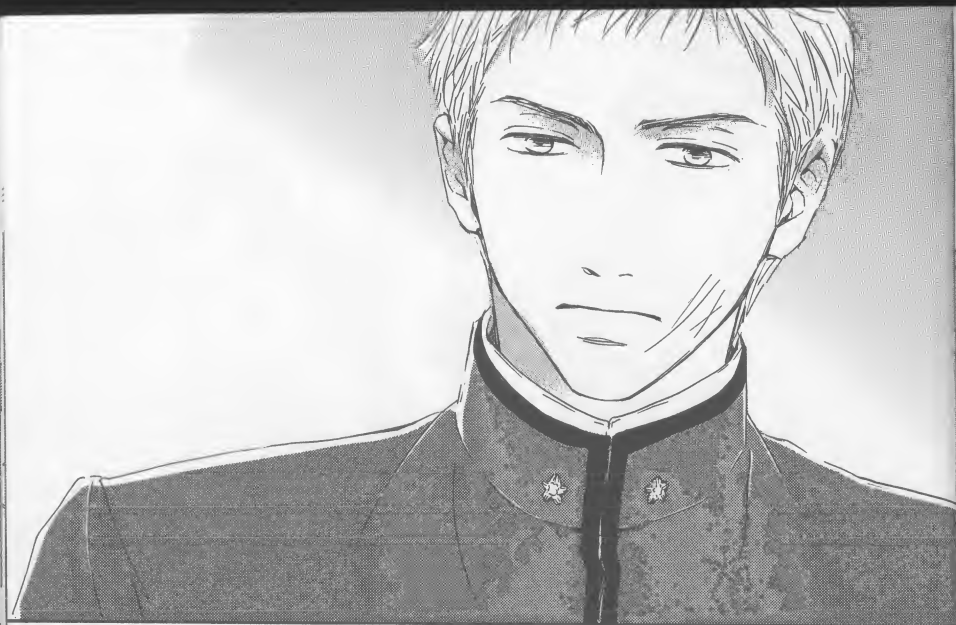
MAYBE

...

...I
SHOULD'VE
BEEN
KINDER
TO HIM.



Scene 4 END





COME TO
MY ROOM
TONIGHT.



FSH



...
UNDER-
STOOD,
SIR.



YOU'LL
OBEY AN
ORDER,
WON'T
YOU?



I
WILL.

HAVE A
GOOD
DAY,
SIR.



GOOD
DAY,
SIR.

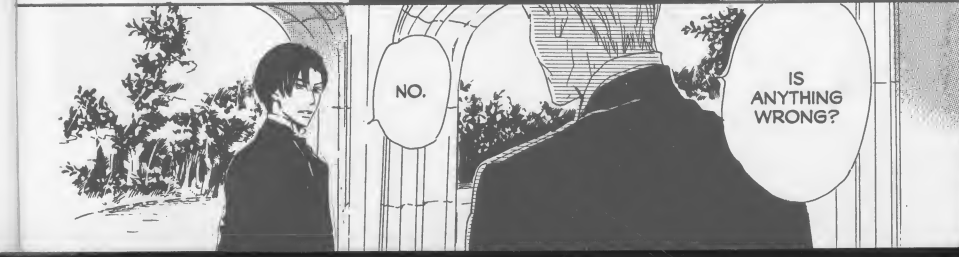
PLEASE
TAKE
CARE,
SIR.

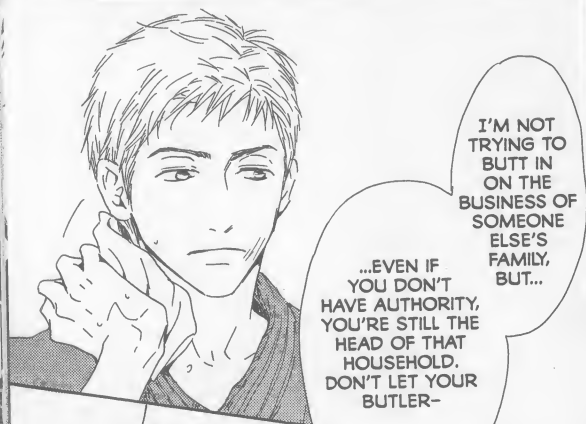


GOOD
DAY,
SIR.



KATSU-
RAGI.

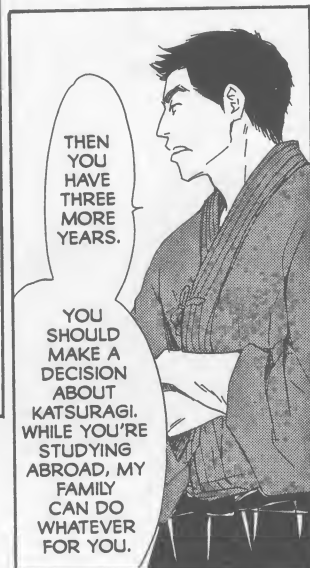




I'M NOT TRYING TO BUTT IN ON THE BUSINESS OF SOMEONE ELSE'S FAMILY, BUT...

...EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE AUTHORITY, YOU'RE STILL THE HEAD OF THAT HOUSEHOLD. DON'T LET YOUR BUTLER-

ISHIZAKI.



THEN YOU HAVE THREE MORE YEARS.

YOU SHOULD MAKE A DECISION ABOUT KATSURAGI. WHILE YOU'RE STUDYING ABROAD, MY FAMILY CAN DO WHATEVER FOR YOU.



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR FATHER?



I JUST WONDERED WHAT A NORMAL FATHER AND SON ARE LIKE.

I DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF MY FATHER.



THAT'S OUT OF THE BLUE. I'M TRYING TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE-

YOU SAID THAT HE USED TO GIVE YOU LESSONS, RIGHT? I REMEMBERED DURING MY LESSON EARLIER.



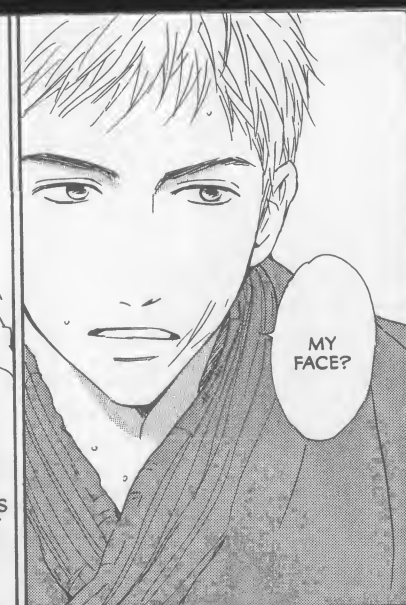
KATSURAGI DID IT.

YOU DIDN'T GET THOSE JUST NOW.



OH.

YEAH. THE MARKS RIGHT HERE.



MY FACE?



RIGHT.

TOMOYUKI KATSURAGI ACTING AS THE KUZE PROXY IS JUST UNTIL YOU COME OF AGE, RIGHT?



THAT'S SOME BUTLER. IN THE OLD DAYS, HE'D BE DEAD FOR THAT.

I MEAN, HE DOESN'T THINK OF ME AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A LITTLE INSECT.

EVEN THEN, HE WOULD'VE HIT ME.



THERE'S
NO WAY
HE'LL
OBEY ME
LIKE THAT
TOO
MANY
TIMES.

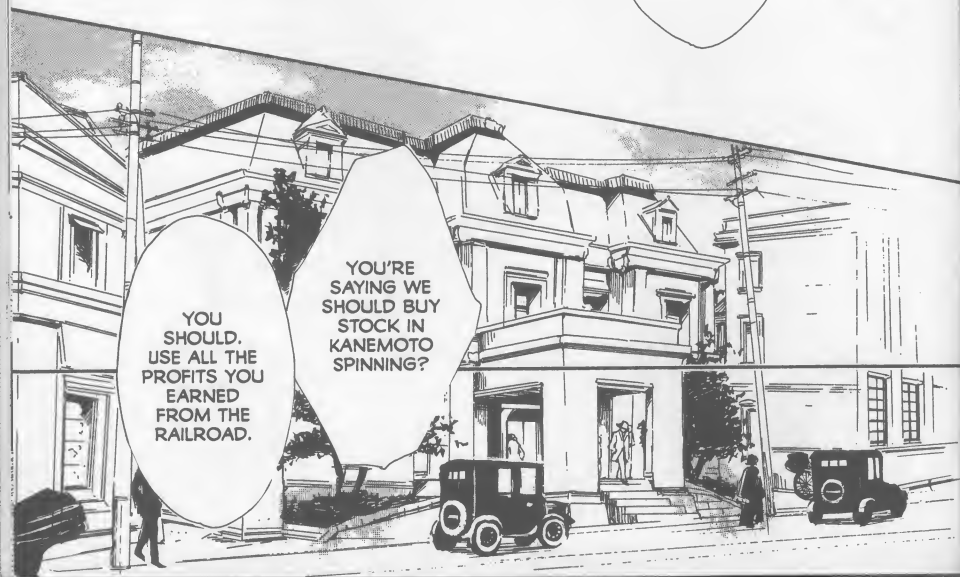


MM...

NO.

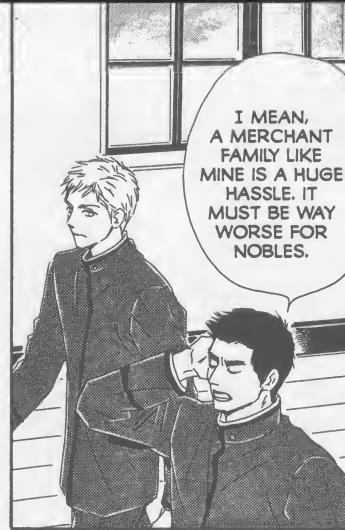
KATSU-
RAGI.

I'LL
COME
OVER.



YOU
SHOULD.
USE ALL THE
PROFITS YOU
EARNED
FROM THE
RAILROAD.

YOU'RE
SAYING WE
SHOULD BUY
STOCK IN
KANEMOTO
SPINNING?



I MEAN,
A MERCHANT
FAMILY LIKE
MINE IS A HUGE
HASSLE. IT
MUST BE WAY
WORSE FOR
NOBLES.



I'M PRETTY
SURE THERE
AREN'T TOO
MANY GUYS AT
THIS SCHOOL
WHO HAVE
NORMAL
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH THEIR
PARENTS.

EVERYONE'S
FAMILY IS
COMPLICATED
IN ITS OWN
WAY.

PUTTING
EVERYTHING
ASIDE FOR
FAMILY
STATUS IS
THE NORM
NOW.



ALL
RIGHT.

OH!

NO...
TONIGHT,
I...

ARE
YOU
BUSY?



...I
GUESS
SO.



KUZE?

MY
FAMILY
WILL BE
GLAD TO
SEE YOU
TOO.

TOMORROW'S
A HOLIDAY.
WHY DON'T
YOU COME
OVER
TODAY?



PROCEED WHILE STILL MAKING A GOOD IMPRESSION FOR THE FUTURE OF VISCOUNT KUZE.

IF YOU RELEASE INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT WE'RE WORKING HARD FOR THE VISCOUNT, THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE FROM ABOVE.

AND THERE WON'T BE MUCH JEALOUSY FROM THE COMMON PEOPLE.



I SUPPOSE HE WAS EGOTISTICAL. HE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.

MASTER AKINAO WAS NOT VERY GOOD WITH THESE THINGS, WAS HE?

...OH. THINKING ABOUT IT NOW ...



THE LARGEST STAKEHOLDER IN KANEMOTO SPINNING IS KATSURAGI BANK.

ARE WE SURE ABOUT THIS?



WHICH MEANS A LARGE SUM OF MONEY IS GOING TO FLOW FROM THE TANAKA COMPANY. THE STOCK PRICE WILL QUICKLY JUMP TO SEVERAL TIMES ITS CURRENT PRICE.

BUT... THE ENTIRE AMOUNT...

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEN...

ALL OF IT?

THE KANEMOTO'S ELDEST SON IS GETTING ENGAGED TO TANAKA'S SECOND DAUGHTER.

YES.



IT WOULD GENERATE EXTRA TENSION WERE THE AMOUNT OF KUZE ASSETS TO BE PRINTED IN THE FINANCIAL NEWSPAPERS OR THE DIRECTORY.

OF COURSE. I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND.

JUST A QUIET ANNOUNCEMENT.



HAVE I EVER FAILED IN INVESTING BEFORE?

I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AWAY.

NO... I APOLOGIZE.



ALSO, AS ALWAYS, I ASK THAT YOU TAKE SUFFICIENT CARE SO THAT INFORMATION ON THE SALE IS NOT LEAKED TO REPORTERS.



I THOUGHT
PERHAPS YOU
WOULDN'T BE
COMING HERE
ANYMORE.



YOU
JEST.

DID I
INADVERTENTLY DO
SOMETHING RUDE?



I DIDN'T
GET AN
ANSWER
ABOUT THE
PARTY.

YOU
DID.

TAK

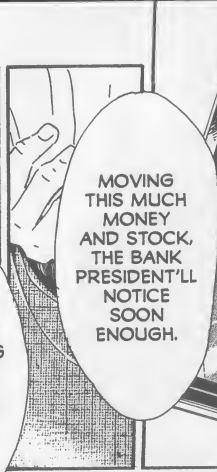


GOOD-
NESS, IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE.

HOW
MUCH
DID HE
GIVE
AWAY...?



HE
SHOULDN'T
BE CAUSING
TROUBLE
FOR HIS
BROTHERS,
AND YET...



MOVING
THIS MUCH
MONEY
AND STOCK,
THE BANK
PRESIDENT'LL
NOTICE
SOON ENOUGH.



HE'S NEVER
MADE A MOVE
ON ANY OF
KATSURAGI
BANK'S
INVESTMENT
OBJECTIVES
BEFORE.



KLAK

KLAK

KLAK



...
WHAT
DID MY
BROTHER
SAY?



I MET
WITH YOUR
OLDER
BROTHER.



I WONDER.

WELL, YOU ALSO TAUGHT HIM TO DANCE, DIDN'T YOU, KATSURAGI?



WE'LL SEE.

HA HA
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PARTY. IS HE A GOOD DANCER?

MASTER AKIHITO IS ALREADY SEVENTEEN, ISN'T HE? DO YOU HAVE A SUITABLE PARTNER FOR HIM?



...PERHAPS.



PERHAPS MASTER AKIHITO DANCES IN THE SAME MANNER AS MASTER AKINAO DID?



AM I REALLY?

YOU ARE.

USUALLY, YOU ARE DELIGHTED TO ANSWER WHEN WE DISCUSS MASTER AKIHITO.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?



YOU'RE QUITE STRICT.

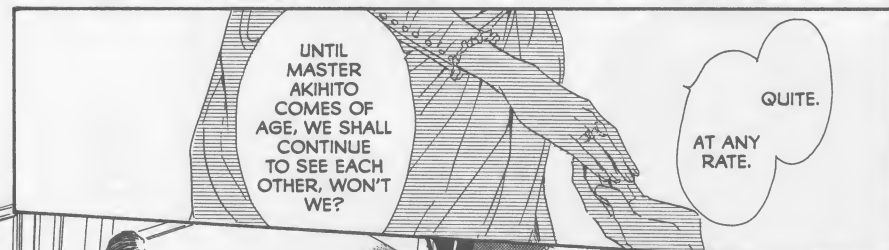


YOU MAY HAVE.

I SENT ONE.



BUT YOU DID NOT BRING IT DIRECTLY YOURSELF.



UNTIL MASTER AKIHITO COMES OF AGE, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO SEE EACH OTHER, WON'T WE?

QUITE.
AT ANY RATE.



I REALLY AM GRATEFUL TO YOU.

ONCE THEY ARE BLESSED WITH A SON, I'LL BE ABLE TO RELAX.

AND EVERYTHING'S SETTLED FOR TAKAKO'S MARRIAGE INTO THE PRESTIGIOUS SAIONJI FAMILY.



SAY WHAT YOU WILL.

IT'S THE SAME EVERY TIME WE TALK ABOUT MASTER AKIHITO.

IT'S SUCH A DELIGHT FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO SEE ALL THE DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS FLITTING ACROSS YOUR FACE.



THAT LOOK.



KATSU-RAGI.

INCIDENTALLY, HOW DID YOU COME BY THAT INJURY?

TUG



YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS RIGIDITY OF YOURS AT ALL.



K L A T T E R

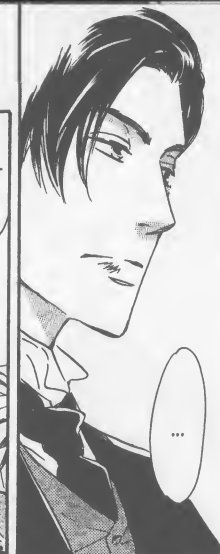
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MADAM KAYOKO.



...KATSU-RAGI.

MASTER AKINAO HAD A SLIGHTLY OLD-FASHIONED WAY OF THINKING.

BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?



...

"HE IS STILL SUCH A CHILD, WHEN WILL HE GROW UP?"

"HE DOESN'T THINK LIKE THE MASTER OF A HOUSEHOLD."

"HE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR."

YOU SAY THE SAME THINGS EVERY TIME.



IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS ALREADY.

THE ORDERS YOUR FORMER MASTER LEFT YOU MUST HAVE RUSTED BY NOW. I CAN'T IMAGINE THEY ARE EASY TO OBEY.

FROM NOW ON, YOU MUST OFFER MASTER AKIHITO SUPPORT IN YOUR OWN WAY.



I HAVE NO IDEA EXACTLY WHAT MASTER AKINAO SAID TO YOU, BUT...

...NO MATTER HOW YOU RAISE HIM, THE BOY ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT TURN INTO THE SAME PERSON.



THAT HOUSE IS ALL MY FATHER.

THAT PAINTING'S REAL. THE BUDDHA STATUE'S A FAKE.

YOU HAVE THAT HUGE MANSION. IT'S SUCH A WASTE.

YOUR PLACE IS TOO DREARY!

BE-SIDES ...

ONCE I INHERIT THE BUSINESS, I'M GOING TO SELL ALL OF THIS JUNK.

DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT...

I'VE SEEN THE REAL VERSION OF THAT PLATE SOMEWHERE.

THERE ARE DEFINITELY SOME FAKES MIXED IN...



FROM ME!

FROM WHO?

THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS.

HE BUILT THAT SHOWY HOUSE WAY BEYOND OUR POSITION...



I'D LIKE TO GO BACK THERE SOME-DAY.



I LIKE YOUR HOUSE BETTER, ISHIZAKI. IT'S KIND OF LIKE THE VILLA IN KAMAKURA.



VERY GOOD.

YES, SIR.

YOU CAN GO NOW.

GO BACK... YOUR RETIREMENT'S MORE THAN A FEW YEARS OFF, THOUGH.



I WAS BITTEN BY A DOG.



UH

DID YOU GET MORE VASES AGAIN?

NO...

SOMETHING WRONG?

KUZE?

K L A K

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SIR.

NO, STAY AS YOU ARE, MY LORD.

FATHER.

AND HERE WE HAVE THE VISCOUNT KUZE. WELCOME TO OUR HOME.

ALTHOUGH IT SEEMED THAT TAKAYUKI KATSURAGI WAS NOT VERY INTERESTED.

WE HAPPENED TO HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO DISCUSS THAT DAY ANYWAY. SO IT WAS REALLY NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP THE OTHER DAY...

DON'T EVEN MENTION IT.

HA HA HA

THAT'S ...

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A STRANGE GUY, BUT...

TODAY, YOU'RE PARTICULARLY WEIRD.

THAT'S NOT-

IS IT KATSURAGI?

KUZE.

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD TODAY.

KSSH
THAK

DON'T GO CHANGING THE SUBJECT. I'M WORRIED. I MEAN, THAT SCRATCH-

WHAT DO YOU KNOW? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE INHERITED YOUR HOUSE YET OR ANYTHING.

HAVE A LITTLE SELF-AWARENESS.

I KNOW I SAID SO BEFORE, BUT YOU'RE TOO ATTACHED TO HIM.

SELF-AWARENESS?

WHY KATSURAGI?

WHEN YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING, MOST OF THE TIME, IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT BUTLER.

SOICHIRO.

K L A T T E R

I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO BEHAVE IN SHIMBASHI, SO YOU WERE A TREMENDOUS HELP.

THE LAST TIME YOU BROUGHT ME THERE I HAD SUCH A WONDERFUL TIME.

FUKU-DARO?

HOW ABOUT WE HEAD OVER TO FUKUDARO IN SHIMBASHI?

I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO PREPARE SOMETHING PROPER FOR YOU GIVEN THE SHORT NOTICE, SO...

AND YOU WERE QUITE POPULAR, MY LORD. I WAS RATHER PROUD.

TEACHING YOU YOUNG MEN ALL OF THAT IS ONE OF THE PLEASURES OF BEING OLDER.

YOU ONLY TRULY COME OF AGE AFTER YOU VISIT A PLACE LIKE THAT A FEW TIMES AND GET FAMILIAR WITH THE MISTRESS AND THE GEISHA.

BUT ...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT TONIGHT.

SO IT'S JUST YOU AND ME THEN? HOW BORING.



ANTAGONISM, HUH?



APPARENTLY THERE WAS SOME ANTAGONISM WITH MY FATHER, AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE KUZES AND THE KATSURAGIS WAS CUT OFF.

WELL, THAT SORT OF THING DOES HAPPEN.



SOICHIRO.

LET YOUR BUTLER GO TOO.

IN THAT CASE, IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO CUT TIES WITH THE KATSURAGIS.



YES, SIR!

BY THE WAY, MY LORD.

HONESTLY, BOY!

I WONDER IF YOU HAVE SOME TIME AFTER THIS.



...I APOLOGIZE.



ENOUGH, SOICHIRO!

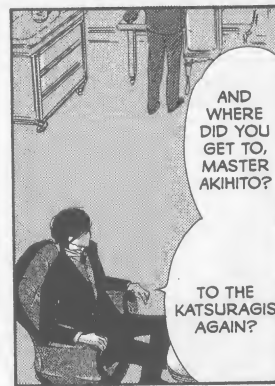
BUT IT'S TRUE!

AFTER ALL, AS MERCHANTS AND A BRANCH LINEAGE OF THE KUZES, THE KATSURAGIS ARE OF A LOWER RANK-



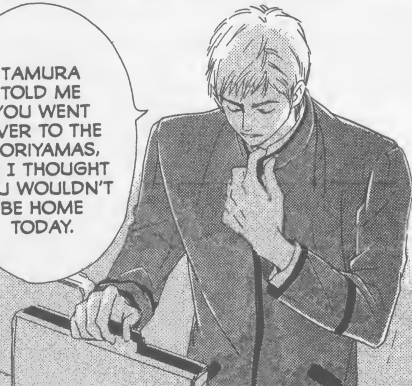
YOU'RE
HERE.

K R E E



AND
WHERE
DID YOU
GET TO,
MASTER
AKIHITO?

TO THE
KATSURAGIS
AGAIN?



TAMURA
TOLD ME
YOU WENT
OVER TO THE
MORIYAMAS,
SO I THOUGHT
YOU WOULDN'T
BE HOME
TODAY.



NO, I
DIDN'T.

I-

MASTER
AKIHITO.



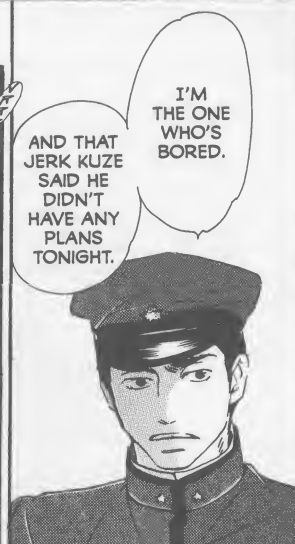
I LIKE
THAT
BOY.

I HATED
HIS FATHER,
BUT
HE'S ALL
RIGHT.

HE
WAS A
MAN WHO
ALWAYS
HAD
SOME-
THING TO
TALK
ABOUT.

PEOPLE IN
BUSINESS
LIKE US,
THERE'S
NO ONE
WE DON'T
KNOW.

YOU KNEW
THE OLD
VISCOUNT?



AND THAT
JERK KUZU
SAID HE
DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
PLANS
TONIGHT.

I'M
THE ONE
WHO'S
BORED.



YOU SEEM
TO NOT HAVE
MUCH LOVE
FOR HIM,
BUT...

I SUPPOSE
IT'S THANKS
TO TOMOYUKI
KATSURAGI, WHO
RAISED THE NEW
VISCOUNT TO BE
SO STRAIGHT-
FORWARD AND
WISE.



WELL,
I DO.



...I MYSELF
DON'T HATE
THE MAN.



THE TITLE,
WHATEVER, I'LL
GIVE IT TO YOU.
WHEN I COME
OF AGE, I'LL
TALK TO SOME
PATRILINEAL
RELATIVES—

YOU
CAN'T
JUST
SAY
THAT.

THAT'S
WHAT YOU
WANT, NOT
WHAT *I*
WANT.

PERHAPS IT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN DIFFERENT
WHEN YOU WERE
BORN, MASTER
AKIHITO.

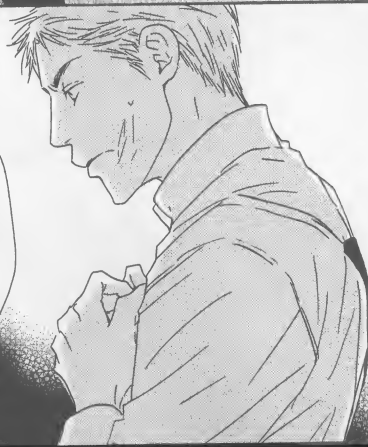
YOU DO
UNDERSTAND,
HOWEVER,
THAT'S NOT
POSSIBLE
NOW?



BY WHICH
I MEAN, THIS
DEAL YOU
SPOKE OF LAST
NIGHT WILL
NEVER
HAPPEN.

MASTER
AKIHITO.

I'VE
HEARD
ENOUGH!



...



I WANT
TO SEE YOU
PROMOTED.

THE
WAY YOUR
PREDECESSOR
WANTED.



WHATEVER
HAPPENS, YOU
WILL LIVE YOUR
LIFE FOR THE
SAKE OF THIS
HOUSE.



THE
WAY...

...YOUR
PREDE-
CESSOR
ORDERED
ME TO.



YOU BRING
THE KUZE
FAMILY THE
RANK OF
COUNT OR
HIGHER.



IN EX-
CHANGE.

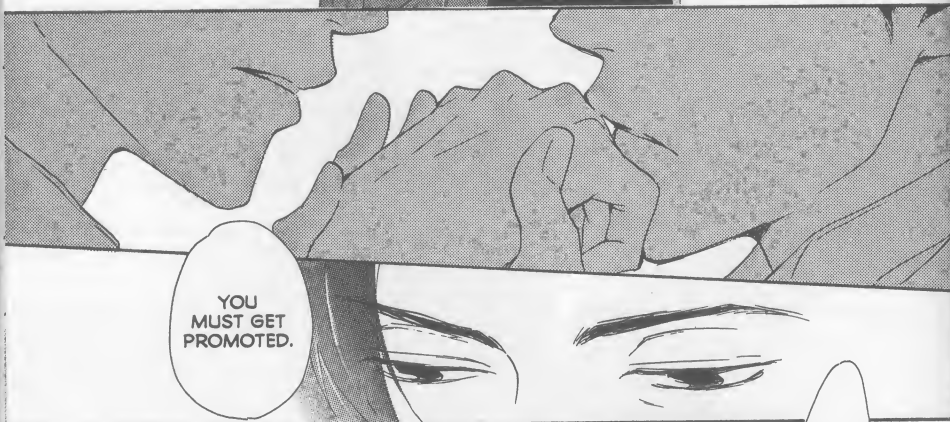


RANKS,
PROMOTIONS
...

I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
ANY OF THAT. I
JUST WANT TO
BE WITH
YOU.

AND NOT
BECAUSE
I ORDER
IT. I-

MASTER
AKIHITO.



YOU
MUST GET
PROMOTED.



...
WHAT'S
THIS
ABOUT?



I WILL
SERVE
YOU MY
ENTIRE
LIFE.

EVEN
AFTER YOU
COME OF
AGE. FOR
YOUR
SAKE.



WOULD
YOU MAKE
A DEAL
WITH ME?



THE TRUST
THAT WE
HAD...

...HAS BEEN
RUINED.



NO!

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT
I...



AT THE
VERY
LEAST...

...YOUR
PREDECESSOR
DID NOT
DO SUCH A
FOOLISH
THING AS TO
EMBRACE
TME.



ARE MY
FATHER'S
ORDERS...

...THAT
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?

I MEAN,
MY
FATHER-



IT'S...
JUST LIKE
YOU
SAID.



IT'S TOO
LATE.

I CAN'T
STOP.



NO.



MM!

....!



...THE ONLY PERSON I'VE SEEN IS HIM.

EVER SINCE I FIRST MET HIM...

KATSURAGI APPROVING OF ME...



EVEN STILL, I LOVE HIM. I CAN'T CHANGE THAT.

KATSURAGI.

KATSURAGI.

FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME... EVEN IF IT NEVER HAPPENS...



I LOVE HIM.



NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS...

...FOR ME, THERE'S ONLY KATSURAGI.

KATSURAGI...

HAH



KATSURAGI...



EVEN IF HE
WON'T GIVE
HIMSELF TO
ME, IF WE
CAN BE
TOGETHER...

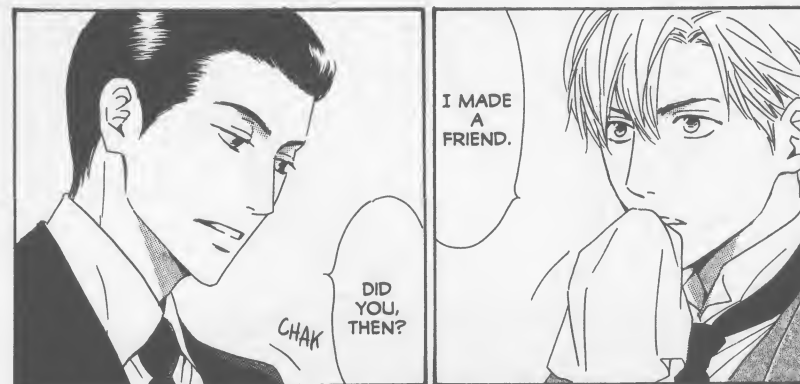
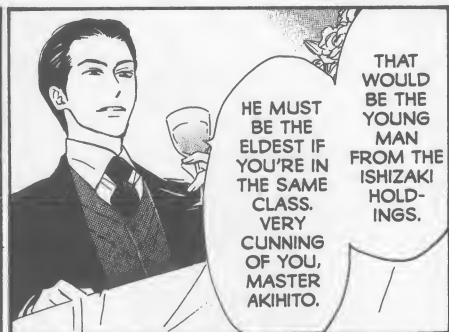
...KATSURAGI
STAYS
WITH ME
FOREVER...

AS
LONG
AS...

...I'M SURE
I'LL BE ABLE
TO MAKE
SOMETHING
HAPPEN.



Scene 5 END





conversation



“
Not only is this
my first period
piece, it's also my
first multi-volume
story... All kinds
of firsts! I hope
you enjoy it!
”

About the Author

Shoko Hidaka's works have been published in English, French and German.

Her previously published English-language releases include *Restart* and *Not Enough Time*. Born on March 31st in Tokyo, she's an Aries with blood type A.